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FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON THE CONSTITUTION

CONFÉRENCE DES PREMIERS MINISTRES SUR LA CONSTITUTION



VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

COMPTE RENDU TEXTUEL

(unrevised)

(non révisé)

Ottawa, Ontario
June 9 and 10, 1990



Ottawa (Ontario)
Les 9 et 10 juin 1990

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Prepared by the

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ON THE CONSTITUTION

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Open Session

June 9 and 10, 1990

Séance ouverte

Les 9 et 10 juin 1990

Ottawa, Ontario
June 9 and 10, 1990

Ottawa (Ontario)
Les 9 et 10 juin 1990

RT. HON. BRIAN MULRONEY (PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA,
CHAIRMAN):

Chers amis, this is a happy day for Canada. The Agreement before us will reintegrate Québec into the Canadian constitutional family. It will allow us to turn a page on Canadian constitutional development and to start a new chapter in building a stronger country for our children.

With this better future in mind, I now invite the First Ministers, representing the people of their provinces, to sign the official document.

Mesdames et messieurs, c'est un grand jour pour le Canada. L'entente devant nous va permettre au Québec de réintégrer la grande famille constitutionnelle. Il va nous permettre de tourner une page dans l'évolution de la constitution canadienne et d'ouvrir un nouveau chapitre en vue de bâtir un pays plus fort pour nos enfants.

C'est avec cet avenir en tête que j'invite maintenant les Premiers ministres, qui représentent les citoyens de leurs provinces respectives, à signer ce document historique.

--- Document officiel signé par les Premiers ministres
--- Official document signed by First Ministers

THE CHAIRMAN:

Ladies and gentlemen, today in some important ways the idea of Canada has been vindicated.

The idea of Canada is that people from different language groups, from different cultures, from different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds can live together in mutual respect and harmony, enriching each other's lives and carving a place for their country in the world.

Effectivement, c'est un idéal qui repose sur la dignité de chaque être humain, la valeur de chaque individu, l'importance de chaque famille, de chaque communauté, de chaque province et territoire et de chaque région. En politique comme dans la vie, il est plus difficile d'unir que de diviser, de bâtir que de détruire.

Effectivement, je pense qu'en présence, mesdames et messieurs des Premiers ministres de toutes les provinces, de la Colombie-Britannique jusqu'à Terre-Neuve et Labrador, je peux affirmer, après sept longs jours et nuits de négociations, au pays tout entier: avec ces individus, vous êtes effectivement en présence de bâtisseurs.

Cet idéal canadien a prévalu grâce à la lucidité de tous les Premiers ministres, leur sagesse, leur courage et leur sens de compromis.

We have before us a fair and an honourable agreement. Once the remaining three legislatures pass the Meech Lake Accord on the basis of the agreement, Québec will rejoin the constitutional family. The way will be cleared to proceed with other constitutional reform such as Senate reform, so much wanted by so many people in the West and the East and in growing numbers in every region of the country.

Those who have expressed concerns about Meech Lake will have the assurances that they will be addressed.

I believe that history will record that Premiers Peterson and Bourassa and Buchanan and Vander Zalm and Ghiz and Devine and Getty remain true to their vision of Canada and stood by their original endorsement of the Meech Lake Accord.

History will also record very generously that Premiers McKenna and Filmon and Wells have found it possible to expand the consensus and, in so doing, I believe they have made a permanent contribution to the unity of Canada.

History will also record that Canada's First Ministers persevered for seven days to find a way for Québécois to feel truly a part of the united Canada. No one loses in the agreement before us. The agreement had one simple objective. It was about a united Canada, and Canada won.

New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Manitoba undertake to submit the Meech Lake Accord for public or legislative consideration prior to June 23. Once the accord is adopted, the Governor General will be advised to proclaim the amendment.

We should soon be able to turn the page on this chapter of constitutional reform, but we should not forget some of the lessons that I think we have all learned from it.

One crystal clear lesson is that a way must be found to ensure public involvement in the constitutional amendment process. None of us wants to put the country through this wrenching process again. I think that I can say on behalf of all First Ministers and all their delegations, and all Canadians, that none of us wants to go through it ourselves again or have the country be submitted to this kind of procedure, to use a polite term.

This explains why we are so anxious to review the amending procedure and the need for public hearings.

Another very clear lesson is that there are serious misunderstandings in this country and that we must all, in Canada's interest, work to clear them up.

In the conference foreground the Meech Lake Accord debate has been about commas and colons and interpretive clauses and preambles. But in the national background it has been about bilingualism and multiculturalism, and about alienation and favoritism, and it has been about rejection.

After 123 years of confederation, many English-speaking Canadians do not understand or accept that the francophone-anglophone duality remains at the core of our nationhood, and in Québec the regional and cultural complexities of English-speaking Canada and the profound dissatisfaction with the status quo evident in the West and in the East have not been fully understood.

The mood of the country has been strained in recent months. But I believe the friction is a function perhaps of the enormous stakes.

Canada has not become a country of intolerance. Against the small handful who desecrated the Québec flag I would point out the religious leaders of Brockville, Ontario who apologized for the incident, who went to Montreal to make sure that Montrealers and Québécois understood, as they readily did, that this was the work of a small handful and in no way reflected the sentiments of the great and generous province of Ontario.

I would also point to the hundreds of thousands of anglophone youngsters from coast to coast enrolled in French immersion programs, not out of political coercion but out of an open-hearted recognition that Canada is a country with two official languages and a genuine desire to share as well in the French culture.

This is all evidence of the essential decency of Canadians and of their profound will to live together in harmony and co-operation, and it is very welcome and, I think, very necessary.

The Meech Lake debate has been bitter at times, and it has opened wounds in the national psyche that will not quickly close over. We must seek to heal the damage in the months ahead.

The federal government will promote the unity of the country very vigorously. We must all rebuild the sense of tolerance and common interest and common purpose that lie at the root of our success as a nation.

The government intends to launch a series of national policy initiatives that will help to enhance our national unity and respond to the economic and social needs of all Canadians. We must restore the faith in this country of Canadians from every walk of life and from every region of Canada.

Je voudrais ici m'adresser particulièrement au Québec, qui a été au coeur de cette ronde de discussions, et lui souhaiter de nouveau la plus cordiale des bienvenues au sein de la grande famille canadienne constitutionnelle.

Je sais que cette période a été très éprouvante pour tous les Québécois et Québécoises et je sais aussi que certains ont douté de l'idéal canadien.

Certains ont prétendu que la reconnaissance du caractère distinct de la société québécoise serait compromise, mais elle ne l'a pas été. D'autres ont soutenu que le Québec serait isolé, mais en aucun moment de ces négociations le Québec n'a été en danger d'être isolé. En fait, tout l'exercice a été entièrement axé sur l'objectif de ramener le Québec dans le giron constitutionnel et de lui permettre de se sentir entièrement à l'aise au sein du Canada. Jamais sa dignité n'a été attaquée ou ses principes compromis.

L'accord du lac Meech assure au Québec ce qu'il lui fallait pour protéger sa spécificité culturelle et linguistique. La confédération canadienne, grâce à sa flexibilité et à son rayonnement dans le monde, demeure pour le Québec l'instrument le plus efficace de protection de sa culture et de développement de son économie.

Il est extrêmement important que les Québécois, conjointement avec l'ensemble de la population, fassent tout en leur possible dans les prochains mois pour renforcer les liens qui unissent notre grand pays.

The world is accelerating into the twenty-first century, and all Canadians would be at an enormous disadvantage if we were to continue to bear the burden of failure to reconcile our past with the future. We need this agreement to unite the country so that, in the face of increasingly tough competition at home and abroad, we can all concentrate on building a brighter economic future for all Canadians across this country. That is why I am so profoundly happy that this attempt at constitutional reform has been successful.

With this agreement, we reject the small view, the little view, of Canada's future. We keep faith with the Fathers of Confederation. We validate the sacrifices of successive generations of Canadians. With the agreement before us, we preserve for our children a united and a promising land.

Let us work together in a spirit of harmony and trust to complete this chapter of constitutional reform by June 23, and then let's have the biggest and noisiest and most joyful Canada Day celebration of our lives. And then, united again, let's get on with building the best, the most compassionate, and the most tolerant country in the entire world.

Colleagues, there is usually an order of speaking at these events, but tonight, with your permission, I would like to change it somewhat. Rather than begin with the Premier of the oldest province, I would like to begin with the Premier of the youngest, and that is the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Premier Wells has participated in our deliberations in a very active and constructive manner. It has been tough for him and for all of us. The hours were long, and the challenges were great.

I think I can say, on behalf of all of our colleagues who participated in these historic events, that we enjoyed and appreciated the very positive, thoughtful and firm positions that Premier Wells brought to the table. In large measure, if we succeeded to the extent that we have, it is because of his very substantial contribution to our deliberations.

I would like, on your behalf, to invite him to begin this evening.

HON. CLYDE WELLS (PREMIER OF NEWFOUNDLAND):

Thank you, Prime Minister, Premiers and guests.

Perhaps, Prime Minister, you would forgive me if I welcome the many people here to the conclusion of what will probably go down in history as the longest dinner meeting on record.

In any event, Prime Minister, it is appropriate that I should explain to the nation the basis for the actions that I have taken in the last few days and, in particular, I should explain to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. But I feel an equally firm responsibility to explain to the people of the whole nation.

These last 12 months or so have been very trying times in this country. Perhaps the last three years have been somewhat trying, but the last 12 months in particular have been very trying times in this country.

A great deal of emotion has arisen primarily because some of the issues in these debates and discussions have been based on language and culture and that tends to evoke emotional expression.

But not all of the expression was based on emotion. A lot of it was based on deep, deep concern by people in all parts of the country as to what we were doing with our constitution and the manner in which we were building our constitution.

It must be just about the most difficult thing in this world to provide for a federal country with ten equal parts and two additional parts hoping to become equal provinces one day in the future and, at the same time, to provide in that constitution a special recognition for a people that do indeed constitute within Canada a distinct society. It is an extremely difficult thing to do, and it is no wonder we have had such a trying three-month period.

Newfoundland's position with respect to this matter has, from the beginning, been based on a sincere concern for the future of the country as a whole. We have, in all of our discussions and in all of our deliberations and in all of the positions that we have put forward, placed the interests of the country first and foremost and the interest of Newfoundland second.

I believe that, that is the responsibility of every province in this nation and, having recognized that Québec is a distinct society, I say to my friends in Québec: I believe it is the responsibility of all of the citizens of Québec to place Canada first and recognize that, like all of the other provinces, Québec is second.

We have prepared our positions on that basis. We assessed what was proposed in the Meech Lake Accord with that in mind. We addressed it in terms of measuring its acceptability against what we saw as the fundamental precepts of Canada as a federal nation, the preservation of a unified Canada that will forever be more than simply the sum of its parts and a recognition that there is more to being a Canadian than simply being the resident of one province or a territory. That comes first.

We also recognize the fundamental equality of every citizen, wherever he or she lives in this nation, and the equality of every province in its status and rights as a province, and we believe our constitution must be developed to reflect that equality. That is the basis on which we put it forward.

At the same time, we must make sure that we provide for the proper response to our commitment that we spelled out in section 36.1 of our Constitution Act, 1982 to provide for the general well-being of our citizens from coast to coast, to provide for an equal opportunity to correct the regional disparities in this country, and to provide for a comparable level of well-being and public services for all of our citizens.

At the same time that we do that, we must, in the other nine provinces and two territories of Canada, be generous enough to recognize that Québec is a distinct society and make a proper and fair allowance to enable Québec to preserve and promote that distinct society. But always, always, always, without exception, remaining faithful to federalism because Canada is one whole federal nation, and all of us have a responsibility to do whatever is necessary to maintain that.

I want to take this opportunity, with as many people as can hear me across this country, to express the most profound regret that this debate over the course of the years that it went on was cast sometimes in terms that people in the rest of Canada were rejecting Québec if they did not accept a particular position.

Let me assure the seven million people who live in Québec, every last one of them, that no one in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is rejecting Québec by anything that they did. Every position they took and every position they held was based on, and presented in, a sincere conviction and concern, not on the basis of a rejection of any one province.

It made our task of sincerely putting forward our concerns a good deal more difficult to have it cast in that light, and I sincerely hope that we never find ourselves in that circumstance again.

We recognized that we would have to make changes in our position. We addressed it on principle, as I say, and requested changes in the Meech Lake Accord. Then we adjusted our position to address it by means of add-ons, and we recognized, when we came to the conference, that we would have to make concessions and compromises in order to achieve a balance that was acceptable.

It is indeed unfortunate that the process that we just went through was an extremely difficult process. It is unfortunate that we had to discuss these major, major matters in the context of having our ability to assess them on the basis of a proper, intelligent assessment of what was right for Canada on the basis of principle; instead, we had to think of it in terms of having to do that which our conviction may have told us was not the right thing to do on the basis of the fear that we would cause irreparable harm to Canada. There is no one who sat around that table, wanted to cause one iota of harm to this nation.

If I learned anything in the last seven days, I learned the dedication of the 11 men who sat around the table. But I also learned the total unacceptability of this process. We must never again implement this process for constitutional reform.

It is impossible for the 11 First Ministers to do justice to the matters they have to consider, and it is grossly unfair to the 26 million people of this nation to have their First Ministers closeted and making decisions in a secret way without letting them know what was at stake and the basis upon which the decisions were made, because it is the future of the 26 million people of Canada that we are dealing with, not our future as governments or First Ministers.

I express appreciation to all of the First Ministers who shared a conviction that they would never again allow this process to take place. You get caught up in almost a whirlpool, or a vortex, that you cannot get out of, and you keep going around and around, despite the urge that everyone has to go and tell the people of the country what we feel. It is an extremely difficult and, I say, a totally unacceptable approach.

In that situation, I was faced with a grave difficulty, the most difficult decision I have ever had to make in my life, and I hope I never have to face those circumstances again. I was faced with assessing issues that, in my own heart and conscience

and conviction, I thought was the wrong thing to do. That judgment may be entirely wrong, it may be contrary to the opinions of most of the First Ministers, but it was based on a sincere and firmly-held conviction as to what was right for Canada first and Newfoundland second.

I found myself constantly being pressured to agree to do something under the fear and threat that failure to do it may do irreparable harm to the country. And I do not want any responsibility for doing irreparable harm to any part of this nation.

So that left us in a dilemma. In the end, I had to take the responsibility to refuse to agree with what was proposed. And that I say particularly to my fellow First Ministers who sat around the table with the most difficult decision I ever had to make.

I finally came to the conclusion late last night and early this morning, after events of yesterday, that it was not possible for me to accept totally the accord, as was proposed.

But neither do I have the right to refuse or cause it to be refused in Newfoundland. I have a responsibility to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as a responsibility to the people of this nation, to make sure that there is every possible opportunity given to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to judge the matter fairly on all of the facts, baring all points of view.

I propose, therefore, that I will take the proposal back -- and this is what I have committed to do and this is what my signature on the document means, and it means only that: that I will take the document back to the Cabinet and caucus in St. John's tomorrow and ask them to make a decision as to whether they would seek legislative approval on the basis of a free vote in the House of Assembly or whether we would go to a referendum in the province.

We must make the decision quickly because there is so little time before June 23. That decision, I hope, will be made tomorrow by the Cabinet and that the caucus will be asked to affirm that decision or give us other instruction.

In the process, I have asked and invited my fellow First Ministers -- if we go through a legislative process, I have extended an invitation to them to come to the Legislature and express to the legislators the firm concerns and convictions about the future of Canada and what would be the consequences of failure to adopt the Meech Lake Accord.

I do not share their conviction, but I am only one opinion. When I see all of this talent and conviction arrayed around me, I have grave doubts that my conviction is correct. I cannot but have grave doubts.

I, therefore, must stand by the conviction that I hold, but give to the people of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador the right to be fully informed as to the other point of view. And I will do that.

I will not, myself, seek to cause the legislators or the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to reject the Accord. I will leave it open for them to decide on the basis of all of the information before them.

My own personal conviction is that what is in the Meech Lake Accord is not the proper way to be generous to Québec, as we must be generous to Québec and recognize Québec as a distinct society and, at the same time, be fully faithful to the principles of federalism. That is what has caused me to take this decision I have taken today.

The future of Canada may, indeed, be at stake, and I invite my fellow First Ministers to participate in bringing that message to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador so that they can make the decision with the fullest sensitivity and concern for that future of our country.

Before closing, Prime Minister, I want to express my personal appreciation to you for your great courtesy and your great tolerance of all of my comments and all of my intervention during the course of the last seven days. I must acknowledge publicly that you treated me with nothing but absolute respect and consideration, and I am grateful to you.

I also extend to my fellow First Ministers, without exception, a similar expression of gratitude and apologize to every one of you if anything I have said has troubled your sensitivities or if I have been in any manner insensitive to your legitimate concerns.

I do not want to single out people, but I must express a particular appreciation to Premier Filmon of Manitoba for his loyal support of my particular concerns throughout this week. But above all, I feel I should single out a particular Canadian who, in perhaps our darkest hour of the meetings, stood tall as a Canadian and demonstrated to everybody in this country the magnanimous attitude of the people and government and Premier of Ontario.

Many people in this country may have heard me respond in recent times when they asked me how I could ever expect to get Senate reform with Ontario holding the vote that it does and Québec holding the vote that it does. My answer is that, whenever it has been necessary in the past, the generous people of Ontario have always stood tall and done what was right for Canada. They did so this week as well.

Finally, Prime Minister, perhaps you will allow me just a couple of minutes to say a special word to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I know this has been a very difficult and trying time for all of you. Many of you have been torn between your allegiance to the country and addressing the concerns of the rest of Canada and your concern for your own future as a full participating province of this country where we can one day enjoy the luxury of sharing and benefiting as a matter of right, because we will have earned it by our productive output, the wealth and benefits of this great country and where we will have an opportunity to contribute back to the generous people of the remainder of Canada the great benefits that they have showered on us for the forty years that we have been a province of Canada.

In doing so, and when you make your decision either through legislative hearings or in a public referendum in the next couple of weeks, I ask you to consider with generosity the position of the province of Québec. I ask you to consider with deep concern the expressions of concern that you will hear from the

other First Ministers and from the people of Canada about the future of Canada. I ask you to respond with concern and generosity, but don't give up your right to make the decision on the basis of conscience.

Thank you, Prime Minister, very much.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Premier. Thank you very much. May I turn now to Premier Devine, please.

HON. GRANT DEVINE (PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN):

Mr. Prime Minister, fellow First Ministers, and fellow Canadians, I can say to all of the people of Canada this evening that there is tremendous respect and genuine affection among all the First Ministers and that it has grown in this past week to probably as high as it has ever been in the history of the nation.

History will be the ultimate judge of what Canada's First Ministers have accomplished in our deliberations this last week and over the past four years.

We have had one major significant chance and opportunity to unite this country and we have it before us tonight. It is in our hands. It is in the hands of every First Minister; make no mistake about that. The responsibility is ours, and all of Canada should know that.

I believe, Mr. Prime Minister, that history's judgment will depend on whether our agreement in the next few weeks ends the period of uncertainty, ends the distrust, and even ends the crisis that this country has undergone.

It is firmly my view that there will be much healing to do in this nation if we are to put this country back on track. This great country will only work with a renewed level of tolerance and generosity from east to west and in English and in French.

Let me join the Premier of Newfoundland in congratulating all of my fellow First Ministers. Every single one of these ministers has paid the political price, but we all won with what we have before us tonight, because the nation won.

I talked to my wife this evening and she said that the people in our family were praying for the country. I have talked to people from across the country in the last few days and they want a win, win, win out of this. They want one Canada, they want significant reform and they want renewed opportunities for our multicultural nation, for all of the rights and freedoms that a democracy can give them.

If we can come out of here in the next few weeks with a win, win, win, one Canada from coast to coast, from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic, and with all the reform that we have ever imagined, to treat each other fairly and with renewed opportunity, then these last six days and these last four years have really been worth it.

I can only add one more thing, Mr. Prime Minister, and that is that I believe the good Lord has a special place in his mind for this very favoured nation. He has given us an opportunity to reach out and grab the future, to give it to our children, all of the families that have all of the aspirations that you could imagine in a young country that has brought people from literally all over the world.

As the rest of the world struggles and strives for a model of democracy, freedom, liberty, tolerance and generosity, Canada has not only the opportunity but, I believe, the responsibility to be that model. The world needs us and we need the world.

This evening I will just say to the people of Canada that I am very proud and honoured to be with the First Ministers that are here. They have bared their hearts and souls. It has been extremely difficult for Premiers like Premier Filmon, Premier Wells and Premier Bourassa. It has been a little difficult, perhaps, for the rest of us. It put a great deal of pressure on all of us. And I share with you, my fellow First Ministers, your contribution, and the contribution, if you will allow me, Mr. Prime Minister, of three provinces that offered more Senate reform than we have ever

seen in the history of the country for 123 years -- Premier John Buchanan, Premier Frank McKenna and the big guy there, David. It was very moving and very generous. With a chance like that, we just cannot turn it down. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Premier. May I turn to Premier Ghiz, please.

HON. JOSEPH GHIZ (PREMIER OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND):

Thank you, Prime Minister.

My fellow First Ministers, Canadians, it is a proud day for Canada. It is a proud day to be a Canadian. We have had seven tough, long, hard, gruelling days; but every bit of it was worth it because we did it for Canada.

I join with the comments of Premier Wells. We have all learned a lesson. The process that was handed to us is flawed. We did not invent it; we inherited this process from the constitutional amendments of 1981-82 under the Trudeau administration. We had no choice but to participate in this difficult type of constitutional building, because this was the heritage that was handed to us.

I believe, Prime Minister, the steps that we have taken at this constitutional conference will ensure that never again will we have to go through this painful process as we build a great nation.

Now, I know that this has been a difficult decision for all of us -- difficult because we are not dealing with the rational decisions that we make in ordinary everyday affairs. We are not talking about an ordinary multi-million dollar Government of Canada contract for this part of the country or that part of the country. We are dealing with the emotions of the people of Canada; we are dealing with the heart and soul of Canada; we are dealing with a situation that we have been grappling with long before the Fathers of Confederation met in Charlottetown in 1864, and that is: how do we reconcile linguistic duality and the fact that we have the French and the English that built this great country?

That evokes tensions and it pulls at our heart strings and, therefore, people respond in large measure from the heart rather than from the head.

And I say, Prime Minister and my fellow First Ministers, that I was guided by one thought throughout: we, as Canadians, have no choice but to say "yes" to Québec, because Québec has said "yes" to Canada on so many occasions.

I say to you, Prime Minister and my fellow First Ministers: isn't it a testimony of the greatness of our country that an immigrant's son from Lebanon could become a Premier of Canada and feel at home in our great nation and feel equal with Canadians from one end of this country to the other, and yet we have close to seven million people in the province of Québec who have been here for 350 years and are now asking the rest of Canada to say "yes" to Québec. This is what the Meech Lake Accord and this conference is all about. And that is why I, as a Canadian, give my unequivocal vote to the people and the province of Québec.

To Premier McKenna, who has shown such wonderful leadership and provided the inspiration for this process to continue, I say "thanks".

To Premier Filmon, who has had to deal with a most difficult situation with a minority government, I would say that, if there is a statesman at this conference, it is Gary Filmon. Congratulations.

And to Premier Wells, whom I have known for a long time and who is a good friend of mine, to have come to this conference with the firm convictions that he holds and sit around the First Minister's conference and say today that he will put his signature on this document and take it back to the legislators in the province of Newfoundland is a big vote of yes for Canada.

Premier Wells had an option that he did not exercise and it makes me happy and glad as a Canadian that he did not exercise that option, and that option was that he could have said no, he could have refused his signature, he could have stuck by his stated positions in the past, but he has given Canada an opportunity and a chance and he has given Canada the opportunity to grow in the future, and I say, Premier Wells, that you are a big man, you are a statesman, and we are all proud of you.

Now, Prime Minister, everyone compromised at this constitutional conference. But the big compromise came from the province of Ontario. Premier Peterson, at a crucial point in the conference, said that the people of Ontario would give up six Senate seats to keep Canada whole, that those Senate seats could be distributed to the less populous provinces, and he was joined in that magnanimous act by Premier Buchanan and Premier McKenna. The three of them deserve a huge vote of thanks for their vote for Canada, for their vote for Québec.

Finally, Prime Minister, to my fellow Prince Edward Islanders, I want to say thank you. I want to say thank you for giving me the latitude and reposing in me your trust to make the decisions at this constitutional table that you thought were in the best interests of Prince Edward Island and Canada. We want a strong and united country, Prime Minister; this process will ensure that that happens. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Premier Ghiz, very much.

May I turn now to the dean of the First Ministers of Canada, an old and a distinguished friend of all of ours who has played such an important leadership role at Premiers' Conferences and First Ministers' Conferences, and as Premier Ghiz has just pointed out, whose leadership at a most critical moment, along with that of Premier McKenna and Premier Peterson, broke a very serious impasse and I believe made possible the ultimate result. I ask John Buchanan of Nova Scotia to please say a few words.

HON. JOHN BUCHANAN (PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA):

Thank you very much, Prime Minister and colleagues.

Mr. Prime Minister, I have signed this very, very historic document with great pride and happiness, happiness for my fellow Nova Scotians and happiness for my fellow Canadians because this is, indeed, a most auspicious day for Canada, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, and including our great territories because this agreement is a show of faith, trust and great confidence in our country, Canada.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am very fortunate that the people of Nova Scotia gave me the opportunity to participate in three of the most historic conferences in Canada's history. I was privileged to participate in the discussions of 1979 to 1981, when Canada patriated the constitution, set up amending procedures, and enshrined for the first time in the country's history, a Charter of Rights. But unfortunately at that time 7 million Canadians, the people of Québec, were left out of the process and the constitution was therefore incomplete.

I have been given the opportunity by Nova Scotians to participate on their behalf twice more, in Ottawa this week and in 1987 at Meech Lake, to complete the Canadian constitution and enable Québec to return to the constitutional table and to welcome all Québécois who have been here, as Joe Ghiz said, for 350 years, back to the constitution of Canada. It is a wonderful event for our country, and one that I know all Nova Scotians appreciate and agree with tonight.

This is an historic legacy that all First Ministers are able to leave to our children and their children in building and assuring a secure future for our country. And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I feel good about Canada.

I am optimistic about our future because this agreement has given us a rebirth of consensus and nation building. This agreement now gives us the security that we need to forge ahead and to build a better, stronger nation by working together as partners.

This accord enables us now to get on with a new vision and a new agenda on behalf of all Canadians and regions of Canada.

I personally want to congratulate my fellow First Ministers on their tolerance, their understanding, their co-operative efforts and certainly their tenacity throughout what has been a very challenging week.

In the end, Mr. Prime Minister, Canada won. The people of Canada are the winners.

I also want to particularly thank David Peterson for his leadership role. Because of him I lost two Senate seats. I don't mind, Prime Minister, because I know that over the next five years, we will have Senate Reform and that won't happen.

I also want to particularly congratulate the Premier of Québec, the Hon. Robert Bourassa, a man who has displayed exceptional leadership abilities in the past week and who has shown his total confidence in Canada and in Québec. Robert Bourassa, you stand tall in the eyes of all Canadians tonight. I have no doubt about that.

Mr. Prime Minister, I salute you. I salute your dedication, determination, your vision, your love of Canada which was so evident three years ago at Meech Lake and again over the past months and, particularly, this week. You are a most tenacious individual, sir, but your determination and your dedication came through.

I express my warm thanks to Nova Scotians and Canadians for their support over the past weeks. The knowledge that Canadians were urging us on for Canada was a very important comfort to all First Ministers and helped them immeasurably in our deliberations.

Nova Scotians have long cared for and supported each other throughout our history. We believe that only through listening and co-operation can we arrive at a consensus. These fundamental Nova Scotia values were readily apparent and practiced by all First Ministers during our deliberations this week. And because of that we have arrived at a new beginning for Canada with consensus in the new unity for all of us.

Mr. Prime Minister, I end with a Celtic prayer amended for this occasion. May the road rise up to meet our Canada. May the wind be always at its back. May the gentle rains continue to help us grow and may God hold Canada and the people of our great country in the palm of His hand forever.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Premier, very much.

As you might imagine, during the course of a very lengthy and complex series of discussions and negotiations, that one often, as Chairman, encounters difficulties, roadblocks and obstacles of various kinds.

I think that it is probably fair to say that on a consistent and ongoing basis, the government of British Columbia, led by Premier Vander Zalm, provided suggestions and ideas that were refreshing, constructive and very, very helpful. On behalf of all my colleagues, I thank him and his colleagues for that and I invite him to speak to Canada.

HON. WILLIAM VANDER ZALM (PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA):

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Mr. Prime Minister, fellow Canadians, two nights ago - - long nights ago, -- I said publicly that Canada was at a crossroads; that we would soon be choosing the road Canada and all provinces would follow. We made the choice. Canada is now firmly back on the right road, one that will lead us to prosperity and security for all of our provinces and for this great country, our true north united, strong and free.

I love Canada and I want to keep Canada whole. It was after church on a Thursday night, during the war in April of 1945 in Holland, when I first made contact with Canada -- when Canada touched my heart. Five hundred people were coming out of church with my brothers, my sisters and myself at the front of this group of people; and quite unannounced and all of a sudden, we saw what was to us a rather strange vehicle, a jeep. And in it were four soldiers that looked different to us but we knew they were Canadians.

These soldiers in that jeep went up into the air and were carried about our town for the rest of the night, despite the curfew which was in place and despite the fact that the aggressors were still on the sidewalks with their guns. As more liberators came from this great unknown land, people that gave unselfishly of

themselves for my freedom, we found great men from Nova Scotia, Québec, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and from every part of this wonderful place. There were native Indian Canadians, English Canadians, French Canadians, Canadians of Ukrainian, Hungarian, Polish and every other ancestry. It did not matter. They all looked better than any group of men we had ever seen. They were all Canadians.

Every family adopted a Canadian. Every family in our town took in a Canadian soldier. Mother did their washing and other small things and they were like a part of the family. And our most famous Canadian was and continues to be -- not Sir John A. Macdonald, not Sir Wilfrid Laurier or you, Mr. Prime Minister -- it was and continues to be an ordinary great Canadian, Peter Murvold from Star City, Saskatchewan, now living in Saskatoon.

Peter was asked to give. His life was on the line. He gave for my freedom and for his country. And today, we too are being asked to give, to give to keep our country united.

In 1947, we immigrated to Canada -- a four week trip on a very slow freighter. We first landed in St. John's, Newfoundland. We then proceeded to Montreal and from there, we crossed this vast country; father, mother and all the children and all our belongings in one station wagon. We arrived in Ladner, B.C., a daffodil growing area in the Fraser Valley, and we went to work the day we arrived. This was and continues to be a great country. Canadians believe this.

British Columbians, whether they are from Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley, the Chilcotin, the Caribou, the Kootenays, the Okanagan, the Peace or the Netchako -- they too believe this. They love their place; they love Canada.

This is why, Mr. Prime Minister, understandably, there was initially very broad support for the Meech Lake Accord. Canadians, British Columbians, people throughout this land wanted Québec in; but Canadians also measure things in terms of fairness.

British Columbians, like every other Canadian, want to see a fair, united Canada. To obtain fairness requires change, institutional change and economic change. This will take time, commitment and, above all, trust. But none of it, Mr. Prime Minister, could happen if Canada were to break up.

Many will continue to say that the Meech Lake Accord is not perfect, and they are right. Many will say that tonight's agreement is imperfect and they could also be right, but I believe keeping Canada together is worth taking the risk.

Somehow many of us have been reassured in the last week that most things are possible when fair-minded political leaders representing fair-minded people come together with a love for Canada and a will to make it better.

For my province, British Columbia, I promised the people two main objectives: To obtain a commitment and process with relevant security or certainty for institutional reform, including an elected, equitable and effective Senate and equality of the provinces and people.

I am extremely pleased and I am proud of all those sitting around this table that we have seen this promise accomplished so effectively. I, too, am concerned about the many other issues that require constitutional consideration. I am also pleased that here, too, an agenda and process has been formulated.

Our country, Canada, has been put to the test and we met the test. We have achieved much of the needed reform and more progress toward still further reform.

I would ask all British Columbians to participate with us in developing a better understanding for each and every part of this great country and for all to recognize and realize that we are stronger united.

I thank the people of British Columbia for the trust they have given me and for making it possible for me to participate in this great event. I thank my colleagues around the table for their patience, for their perseverance, for sticking with it through those many long, long days.

Most of all, Mr. Prime Minister, I am sure that I can speak for all of us too when I say you have a patience and an ability to keep things on line like none of us, I am sure, have ever seen anywhere and I congratulate you for that.

Today we stand united and with the will and the proper tools, we will become an even better Canada. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Ladies and gentlemen, the only Premier in our group who is in the unique political situation of a minority government is Premier Filmon of Manitoba. That is something politicians seek to avoid but, when it happens, it has to be dealt with, with great sensitivity, and it requires the active co-operation, in a great national endeavour such as this, of the leaders of the two opposition parties, Mrs. Carstairs and Mr. Doer, both of whom provided that loyalty and support to Premier Filmon.

Premier Filmon, however, was the one who had to carry the can in the pressure cooker, which went on for days and presented great challenges. I think it is probably fair to say that Gary Filmon impressed everyone, all of the First Ministers, because as the pressures built -- and there were enormous pressures, moments of great difficulty and great challenge -- he was serene, he was resolved, he was informed, and he made a tremendous contribution to the conference. I know the people of Manitoba will be proud of him and I know all Canadians are. I welcome him and I ask him to speak on behalf of the government and the people of Manitoba.

HON. GARY FILMON (PREMIER OF MANITOBA):

Thank you, Prime Minister. That's not what Janice says when my eyes glaze over, I might say. I have to tell you that the next time I accept a dinner invitation from you, I am going to ask how many shirts to bring.

This has, colleagues and friends and fellow Canadians, been a very long, arduous and difficult week for all of us. As David Peterson said, there is a lot of sweat and a lot of blood on that table in that meeting room. I think we are all glad, finally, to be in open session and to have an opportunity to tell the people of Canada about our goals, about our aspirations for the future, about our concerns and our feelings.

And I think we are all glad, finally, to be out of that pressure cooker atmosphere and out where we should be, discussing constitutional reform and change with the people of this country, because constitutions, first and foremost, are for the people of the country.

You have talked, as everyone has, about the need to change the process. It has been said time and time again in the foregoing discussions, "Never again." None of us would ever participate in a kind of process that did not allow for the kind of public input that we must have in order to ensure that their constitution evolves in a way that is fitting for the people of this country. It is a process that I know will not be repeated, partly because of the experience that has led up to this meeting this week.

We in Manitoba, of course, have the benefit, and took the benefit, of a public hearing process. Through that public hearing process, people expressed their concerns about the Meech Lake Accord. These concerns were all on the table during the course of this entire week's discussion, not only the concerns that were expressed in Manitoba but in the public hearing process in Ontario and New Brunswick and in the Charest committee. All of those matters came to the table in this week's discussions for resolution, and I think it is fair to say that they weren't totally resolved, Prime Minister.

But the efforts and the views and the contributions of the people who came before every single public hearing process were given heed, made a contribution to this week's discussions and deliberations and are in the final document that is produced as a result of this week's deliberations.

In Manitoba, the people will have one more opportunity in the next two weeks to go before the mandatory public hearings as called for under the rules of our Legislature. They will be able to give us their opinions on the evaluation of the document that came out of this meeting. They will be able to tell us what they think about the results of our efforts. They will find improvements in that document, in my judgment, in substance and in process. For instance, as has been said earlier, there is a commitment to real Senate reform, a commitment and statement of principles of the objectives of that Senate reform, a precise process for achieving that Senate reform, a firm time frame to ensure that we work quickly and effectively toward Senate reform and to ensure that we make real progress and incentive at the end of it.

David Peterson doesn't think it is an incentive, I know, but it is an incentive for all of us to ensure that, at the end of that process, if we have not by 1995 achieved the kind of reform that can be agreed upon unanimously, we will have a redistribution of the seats in the Senate that will give the west the largest block of any region in the country in that Senate. I think that it is important to many, many of us who represent regions across the country.

We have provided for a role for the Territories, a role in the appointments to the Supreme Court and the Senate, of participation in future First Ministers' Conferences, a greater participation, and I know that has been important to all of us around the table and certainly to our colleagues from the Territories joining us this evening.

We have set a separate constitutional process for the aboriginal peoples of this country. I know that over the last couple of years we have had many, many, many meetings with the aboriginal peoples' representatives, and they wanted to know how they could get their issues back on to the table of constitutional discussion in Canada, and now they have that separate process.

A review, of course, of the amending procedures for provincehood for the Territories, that we believe will come to a fruitful conclusion.

The inclusion of gender equality rights, along with multicultural and aboriginal rights in the non-derogation clause -- very important to many people who appeared before our committee in Manitoba.

Of course, the Canada clause that we talked about, to give flesh to the vision that many people have of Canada as a multicultural country, Canada with its aboriginal origins, Canada for all of us.

It will, of course, be studied immediately, beginning July 15, by a parliamentary committee taken across the country so that there will be broad public input into any final determination and brought before First Ministers as early as the next First Ministers' Conference, in the hope that we can finally put that elusive description of what the fabric of Canada is all about into our Constitution.

Prime Minister, none of us around this table, could claim victory from this week's deliberations; but each of us can claim with great certainty that we did our very best.

Prime Minister, you mentioned my colleagues, the opposition leaders in Manitoba, and I want to pay special tribute to them. This week they were available for consultations, for input to the process, for input to the final determination of what we have here before us. They were solid advocates of the Manitoba task force position on Meech Lake and they did make a contribution. Their support for the package that we take back to Manitoba will be very important over the next two weeks as we go through that very cumbersome and difficult process that the rules of our Legislature call for to approve a constitutional amendment.

As I look around the table I know the tremendous commitment and effort, both emotionally and intellectually, that each and every one of my colleagues has put into the efforts of this marathon meeting over the course of the week. It has been very, very difficult, as I said at the beginning, with the differing needs and concerns that we have, the differing regional interests, the linguistic, the cultural, the economic interests that we all represent that are so different across this great vast country of ours. Prime Minister, you said it is an impossible country to govern, and that has been said by many.

Winston Churchill, I think, spoke of the definition of the British Commonwealth of Nations which may be appropriate. He said it was like the fabric of a beautiful cloth, so closely interwoven but so loosely bound. I believe that our efforts have worked to bind it more closely and more securely as a country.

There are no winners and losers at this table, Prime Minister; there are only people who have put their hearts and souls into representing their people, their province, and Canada. So, in the end, the winner is Canada.

I think that is very important. It certainly is very important to me because, as the child of an immigrant family, I have never wanted to be anything other than a Canadian all of my life. Despite all of its flaws and imperfections, it is still the greatest country in the world, and I believe that our actions and our decisions this week will allow it to continue to grow in strength and in unity. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Colleagues, soon after Don Getty became Premier of Alberta, I had a breakfast meeting with him in Edmonton and I asked him what he thought the problems were on the national level. He graciously didn't mention the federal government, but he did refer to what he thought the biggest problem in Canada was and the need was for Senate reform. I was struck by it because I hadn't heard anybody else mention it, certainly hardly at all.

And then, slowly but surely, almost single-handedly, if the truth be known, until he and Bill Vander Zalm teamed up in a pretty direct way, he began all by himself and he carried the case for Senate reform almost from obscurity to great prominence on the national agenda.

Premier Getty has emerged in the minds of all of us as a very direct and effective spokesman for Alberta and is a very powerful contributor to Canadian unity. The quite extraordinary advances made towards Senate reform, I think most Canadians would acknowledge readily, are due to his unrelenting efforts on its behalf.

I congratulate him particularly for that. I thank him for a tremendous contribution to a successful conference and I ask him on behalf of Alberta and all Albertans to speak to Canada.

HON. DON GETTY (PREMIER OF ALBERTA):

Thank you Mr. Prime Minister, my fellow Premiers, Canadians.

I first want to offer my congratulations to my fellow First Ministers and express my respect and admiration for them. A special comment for you, Prime Minister: you have done a superb job this week as a chairman under a difficult process that everybody has mentioned, which you did not create. But you have done a superb job this week as our chairman.

Being together with the First Ministers much more than I would want to in seven days, you do though get a feel for the strength that they bring to these meetings and their love for the country.

I want to thank some people who helped me this week, Prime Minister, because they spent a lot of time with me as well. I want to thank the Alberta delegation and my ministers who helped me for the superb support they have given me over a very difficult week.

I also want to thank two members of our Legislature, not from my party, who are here, and they helped. The leader of our official opposition, the Hon. Ray Martin and the leader of the Liberal party, Lawrence Dicore. It was clear to me, meeting with them during this week, that they are very strong Canadians.

Of course, I want to express my thanks to my caucus back home. It is because of their strong support and confidence in me that I was able to be down here working for Canada in Alberta.

Since 1967, as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister of Energy and now Premier of our province, I have always fought very strongly for my province. But I have never allowed my government nor have I, myself, ever fought for my province at either the risk or expense of my country, and I will never do that.

So my main message tonight is to Albertans, to my family, my sons, to all Alberta families and their sons and daughters, really our young people in Alberta, because this agreement is for them. It is about them. It means that they are going to be able to enjoy a great future in a great country, and I think this agreement provides them the opportunity to do that.

Normally, when I talk to Albertans, we are talking about agriculture or energy and health care and budgets, but over the last several months I have been talking to them about my concern and my fear for my country.

There are many times in Canada when we have tensions and frustrations and disappointments, but we have a beautiful country, and I love this battered country of ours. I believe it is the envy of the world. When I talk about our young people in Alberta and all young people in Canada, I am sure that, if we had ever let this slip away, they would never have forgiven us.

This is a very important and decisive day for Canada. I am proud to be a Canadian.

I want to extend my personal welcome and the welcome of the people of Alberta to the Premier of Québec and the people of Québec. Robert, I know that working together we can have a great nation. We will have a great nation, but we can only achieve that greatness by being united.

Today's agreement has been reached in a spirit of nation-building, and it allows us to move ahead with confidence and to focus our energies now on many other items of national importance.

Mr. Prime Minister, this trip down here this week and being able to conclude it today, in a way concludes a trip that we started in Edmonton, many of us together, in 1986 with the Edmonton Declaration when we said that it was our determination to try and make the Canadian constitutional family whole.

It has not always been easy, but we have kept working at it. The first step, of course, was Meech Lake which was a very good agreement for Canada and, I believe, a very good agreement for Alberta. It gave us many things that will allow us to build our future in Canada on a sense of equality, a sense of greater participation in our nation and able to have a greater input on decisions at the center of our country. And so I am very pleased to have Québec join us fully.

I want to just make a comment -- and you referred to it, Prime Minister -- about what was a lonely journey at times, a lonely journey to be fighting for Senate reform: one Premier, one government, determined to move Senate reform from a spot that just was not in the national consciousness to the No. 1 constitutional issue facing Canada today.

I just want to take a moment to tell Albertans and Canadians about the remarkable achievements toward Senate reform that the document we have signed today provides.

First, a new Senate commission, a commission which will have the best minds in our country working on Senate reform and then reporting, for the first time in the history of our country, to a Constitutional Conference on Senate Reform.

Then the objectives that we were able to establish as First Ministers, that the Senate should be elected -- the first "E".

That the Senate should have effective powers to ensure the interests of residents of the less populous provinces and territories figure more prominently in national decision-making - the second "E".

Then that the Senate should provide for more equitable representation of the less populous provinces and territories. Mr. Prime Minister, that is moving toward the third "E", and I am going to keep working for that third "E".

Then, Mr. Prime Minister, the commitment which you made to report every six months to Canada on the progress on comprehensive Senate reform. Now, that keeps the pressure on.

Then, the commitment, here, that Senate reform is the No. 1 priority.

Then, for more pressure, the move further toward equal with, I guess, one of the finest acts of statesmanship that I have seen since 1967 when I was first elected, the Premier of Ontario reaching out to the smaller provinces, the less-populated provinces, supported by the Premier of New Brunswick and the Premier of Nova Scotia, and that was extending a hand that we will never forget.

I don't know what we are going to do now, Prime Minister, to hold us together as First Ministers because we are feeling so strongly about David Peterson. He has always told us that the one thing that unites us is that we are all trying to get even with him. But it was a great act of statesmanship.

So, Prime Minister, I just want to conclude by saying that I know Canada is not an easy country to govern, but that it is my country. Tonight the Alberta delegation will be getting in a plane and flying all night back across this country. And you remember I told you in your house, when I came down several weeks ago, that I was worried about it as we flew across the country. Well, I am flying back feeling great. I am flying back very proud to know that we have made Canada stronger today.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much, Premier.

Le Premier ministre McKenna dirige la destinée de la seule province officiellement bilingue au Canada, le Nouveau-Brunswick.

Il avait donc, à l'occasion de ce congrès, de ces rencontres, des responsabilités à la fois lourdes et particulières. Je pense, de l'avis commun, qu'il les a remplies avec beaucoup de dignité et efficacité.

I can tell you all that Frank McKenna's contribution to our success was major. To me as Chairman of a most important coming together of First Ministers, in my role as Chairman, he was unfailingly helpful.

Inasmuch as he and I have roots that go right back to the Miramichi together -- in fact, I think I was there before him -- I have a special affection for the province and the region, and it is with great pride that I invite him to speak to Canada tonight.

HON. FRANK MCKENNA (PREMIER OF NEW BRUNSWICK):

Thank you, Prime Minister and fellow Premiers, territorial leaders, New Brunswickers, Canadians.

I want to start by complimenting you personally, Prime Minister, for the relentless sense of purpose that you have shown throughout a week that was trying and exhausting, at times exhilarating. You never failed to maintain your strong sense of mission and I believe the end result is a tribute to that.

Je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue à tous les francophones ce soir, to all New Brunswickers I want to say a very special hello because they have shared with me throughout these past three years the very special burden that has been associated with this Meech Lake debate.

For me it started some three years ago when I first had concerns as to the complete generosity of the Meech Lake Accord. Later, as we went through public hearings, that was reinforced by literally dozens of briefs from various interest groups across the province of New Brunswick.

New Brunswickers, Prime Minister, always in an effort to be helpful and not obstructionist, reacted in a positive and constructive way in an effort to try to build on the genuine accomplishments and to make sure that success was achieved with the most generous proposal to all Canadians possible.

It was our concern, and it is not unusual that it would be a concern for a province such as ours, the province of New Brunswick, with its unique characteristics, we were concerned for minority rights and we were concerned for the aboriginal process and we had a great deal of affection for the concerns of the Territories.

We wanted to make sure that they were treated with full justice, we were concerned with the rights of women and concerned with the number of the groups that we felt had not been treated with full justice in the original Meech Lake round.

I was always fortified in my views on the Meech Lake Accord by my good friend and ally, Aldéa Landry, the Deputy Premier of the province of New Brunswick who, Prime Minister, is not only a woman but an Acadian and a great Canadian.

New Brunswick worked its way through this thing, the people of New Brunswick collectively almost, throughout these past three years, introducing the companion resolution and making every effort possible to try to find a way out of this impasse which faced our country.

Nous avons déposé la résolution d'accompagnement avec l'objectif de trouver une solution à cette impasse.

It was interesting to us, though, in our public hearings that the briefs did not come out and speak against the accord per se -- there were a few that did that -- and not that many who were completely for it. Most of the briefs called for improvements and

enriching of it without a subtracting of the genuine accomplishments. That provided an enormous source of inspiration to us as we continued through the process.

I am pleased to be able to say tonight that most if not all of the concerns in whole or in part have been addressed by the accord which we have agreed upon today, which is built upon legitimate and genuine accomplishments of Meech Lake.

Perhaps the most important of all of those, Prime Minister, the most important recommendation we heard in our public hearings and the most important resolution that we advanced and the most important accomplishment of this week is to address the process because it is evident to all of us now that Canadians, even though they seem indifferent at times, have a genuine and deep and abiding affection for the country and the Constitution. They do not want the Constitution changed or affected without having a chance to have their say.

What we have done now is provide a process which set in train a process by which we will have more public participation so that never again will we be put in the position of having to defend ourselves in such a manner.

We will also, I believe, through this process be able to change the amending formula so that we will not have to go through this very onerous and difficult and almost impossible set of provisions to try and adapt to the changing realities of this country of ours, this Canada.

J'ai un message spécial pour les 7 millions de Québécois et Québécoises ce soir. Je suis très fier et très heureux, et particulièrement très fier de votre appui pour quelques améliorations pour les Acadiens et les Acadiennes. Pour nous, c'est une générosité très spéciale, et j'espère que cette générosité représente l'avenir entre nos deux communautés.

To all of my colleagues I want to say what a wonderful and inspiring and respectful week this has been. It would be impossible to say, Prime Minister, that all of our differences have been resolved because they haven't. Whether they are differences of policy or differences of politics, there are many differences amongst us.

Yet throughout the course of this week, I had the sense that every single person in that room was able to walk away from concerns that might be political or provincial or regional or personal and focus his eyes squarely on what was in the best interests of the Canadian nation.

It gave me enormous inspiration to be associated with Western Premiers like Premiers Vander Zalm, Devine and Getty. Knowing how unpopular their position was in their area of the country, I could not help but admire these unrelenting commitments that they made without wavering because they believed so strongly it was right for Canada.

I believe that you can hang a Premier for making political mistakes or for political disagreement, but you should never, ever, ever lose your respect for your Premier because he stands on principle, and these Premiers stood tall.

Premier Getty also proved to me that not only was he a great Canadian quarterback who could throw, he could tackle when needed as well.

I also want to tell my colleague, Premier Wells, how impressed I was at how resolute he was in his views, how committed he was to the principles that he believed in and how forcefully and how articulately he presented those views to us in a fair and respectful way.

To my colleague, Gary Filmon, I witnessed the metamorphosis of the leader during this week. I saw an absolutely extraordinary thing unfold, the serenity that so many people have referred to and the resoluteness that developed during the course of the week, tremendous demonstrations of character, as he dealt with an issue that for him I know is very difficult politically and very difficult in terms of the feelings in his province and fought with absolute total unwavering dedication to see accomplishments, accommodation, improvements made that would represent the best interests for his people. Gary, I prove to have enormous respect for you in the dedication that you brought to doing your job for the people of Manitoba while never losing sight of the interest of the people of Canada.

To my other colleagues, John Buchanan, who willingly gave up two Senate seats when called up and whose unwavering support of the Accord I have respected even though I have not always agreed with him, and certainly to Premier Ghiz, who tonight gave one of the best speeches I have ever heard, but who, during the course of the week, did give the best speech that I ever heard, a speech that touched right to the heart every single participant in that room, one of many literally dozens of speeches filled with passion and feeling for this country, not spoken for the thousands or millions of people who were not listening, but for the ten people who were in the room, and they were absolutely hanging on every word.

And, Joe, I say to you I have enormous affection and an enormous amount of respect for the depth of the convictions that you hold.

And to my colleague, the Premier of Ontario, who not only was unselfish but also demonstrated extraordinary leadership and always very definitely and astutely sensing the mood of the room and sensing the timing, when the timing was right to make a significant suggestion for improvement, your unwavering support of what you believed was to be in the best interest of Canada is high-principled and it is worthy of great admiration.

Prime Minister, I left for the last the Premier of Québec, Robert Bourassa, who conducted himself with extraordinary dignity, who showed an amazing sense of restraint, an amazing sense of affection, absolutely unquestioned loyalty to his province at all times, under all circumstances, and was able to do that and at the same time show that he was a great Canadian. I take my hat off to you, Robert.

To all of you, I believe that the exercise that we completed was in the best interests of Canada.

The one point that became obvious to all of us, Prime Minister, was that we could not accommodate every concern, but that we could accommodate to the best of our ability the concerns being expressed by a great number of Canadians.

We also found out, Prime Minister, that the one ingredient that was essential to the success of our meetings and now to the success of this entire nation is the element of trust.

At one point in the week, all of the Premiers of Canada collectively made the decision that we had to rely on and we had to trust the other Premiers.

And I say the same thing to the Canadian people who are listening tonight and in the days ahead. I know that many people will agree and many will disagree with us. But what I am asking you to do is to trust our judgment, that the judgment we have made is in the best interest of this country of ours. While you may agree or disagree, I am asking you to understand that after a week of soul-searching, we, as the Premiers of Canada, believe that the accommodation that we have reached is the best possible accommodation for the future of this great nation.

Mr. Prime Minister, for all of those reasons I am proud to tell you this evening that we will be introducing in the Legislative Assembly the Meech Lake Accord and a parallel resolution which we will pass in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick before the 23 of June of this year so that we can proudly reintegrate Robert Bourassa into the constitutional family.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Premier, very much.

Je pense que tous les Québécois et les Québécoises ont éprouvé un sens aigu de perte suite à certains événements dans cette ville, dans cette même salle, quoi, il y a maintenant presque une décennie. Personnellement, comme Québécois et Canadien, je trouvais profondément inacceptable qu'une province fondatrice du Canada, la seule province presque totalement française, soit à l'écart de la Constitution canadienne.

Je me suis fixé, à Sept-fles, au mois d'août 1984, la tâche -- advenant une élection possible comme Premier ministre -- d'essayer, avec mes collègues, de trouver une formule qui permettrait la réintégration du Québec dans le giron constitutionnel canadien, bien sûr à des conditions tout à fait acceptables et honorables.

Je voulais pour le Québec ce que j'aurais souhaité pour l'Alberta en pareilles circonstances, ou Terre-Neuve. Je voulais tout simplement que le Québec trouve une place dans la grande famille canadienne par la grande porte, non pas par la porte d'en arrière.

D'abord, en 1987, avec plusieurs d'entre vous autour de cette table, on a conclu l'Accord du Lac Meech; ensuite, trois années difficiles, très difficiles; ce soir, enfin, la réalisation d'un engagement très important de 1984.

Il est important de mentionner que dans cette grande aventure, où on a connu des moments de très grande difficulté et de grandes décisions, tous les Premiers ministres ont été pour le Québec et pour le Premier ministre du Canada des alliés fidèles. Jamais, jamais le Québec ne risquait d'être isolé autour de cette table constitutionnelle.

Le Premier ministre Bourassa a tenu le coup avec lucidité, avec fermeté et avec beaucoup de courage. Je pense que je peux affirmer au nom de tous ceux qui ont vécu la semaine ensemble qu'avec Robert Bourassa, les intérêts du Québec ont été défendus de façon tout à fait exceptionnelle. Il est un grand Québécois et un grand Canadien, et c'est avec fierté que je demande à Robert Bourassa de prendre la parole ce soir.

M. ROBERT BOURASSA (PREMIER MINISTRE DU QUÉBEC):

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Chers collègues, mes premiers mots sont pour remercier très chaleureusement mes compatriotes pour leur soutien indéfectible dans ce combat pour la réintégration du Québec dans la Constitution canadienne. Le Québec peut être fidèle à son histoire et à son identité distincte et trouver au sein de la fédération canadienne des conditions favorables à son plein épanouissement économique, social et culturel.

Cette conviction profonde et une bonne dose d'efforts d'une intensité peu commune font en sorte que pour la troisième fois en trois ans, tous les Premiers ministres du Canada acceptent l'Accord du Lac Meech. Ce fut gagné de haute lutte, certes, mais l'enjeu en valait la peine.

L'Accord du Lac Meech, qui devrait être ratifié dans son intégralité et dans les délais prescrits, fournit au Québec les leviers qui lui permettront de demeurer ce qu'il est et de continuer de se développer.

D'abord, pour la première fois dans son histoire, le Québec voit son caractère distinct reconnu dans la Constitution. Le Canada anglais a compris et accepté que nous soyons reconnus pour ce que nous sommes.

Deuxièmement, en matière d'immigration, des pouvoirs substantiels sont accordés au Québec pour lui permettre de planifier son immigration et d'établir les politiques démographiques correspondant à ses besoins essentiels à sa sécurité culturelle.

Troisièmement, le pouvoir fédéral de dépenser sera mieux encadré et permettra une meilleure adaptation des programmes fédéraux aux diverses réalités provinciales.

Quatrièmement, il importait au Québec de se voir garantir par la Constitution une représentation adéquate au sein de la Cour suprême et une contribution significative au processus de sélection des juges en provenance de son territoire, et le plus haut tribunal du pays se voit donner une valeur constitutionnelle.

Enfin, cinquièmement, le consentement du Québec sera dorénavant requis lorsqu'on se proposera de modifier un élément majeur de la structure fédérale, qu'il s'agisse de la réforme du Sénat, de la Cour suprême ou de la création de nouvelles provinces. En outre, l'extension du droit de retrait avec compensation à tous les cas de transfert de compétence en faveur du palier fédéral fournit une protection accrue et permet au Québec de conserver ses pouvoirs intacts, notamment dans tous les secteurs reliés à son caractère distinct, sans être pénalisé financièrement.

Il y a évidemment un autre avantage à cette paix constitutionnelle. C'est qu'elle va nous permettre, au Canada comme au Québec, de nous concentrer sur les questions économiques, notamment. Le Canada traverse actuellement une période difficile en raison de l'importance de son déficit, du niveau des impôts, des nouveaux défis de société comme celui de l'environnement. Il y a une nécessité incontournable pour nous tous d'être dynamiques et concurrentiels.

On sait tous que le défi de la prochaine décennie est l'adaptation du Canada comme du Québec à cette économie internationale, et que cette adaptation à l'économie internationale nous permettra de favoriser l'unité du pays et, évidemment, le renforcement de son économie.

This agreement completes the constitutional amending process begun in 1987, which had as its objective the re-integration of Québec within the Canadian Constitution. It represents a new beginning in the relations between Québec and the rest of our Canadian partners.

It is the basis for future constitutional change. We believe in the Canadian federal system because it provides for Québec the opportunity to maintain its identity, as well as providing the basis for economic, social and cultural growth.

This amending process while difficult at times has allowed us to better understand each other's concerns. This can only result in better and more effective government. All my colleagues are participants in this process in the most appropriate and open manner. This can only lead to a better Canada.

I would like to say a few words about the contribution of my friend, Mr. David Peterson. The statesmanship that he has shown during all this crucial week for the future of Canada, his ability to reach all the regions, was a key factor in the success of this enterprise, and I want to salute him as a friend and as a neighbor.

As I have said very often, Canada is a most privileged country. Our resources, our values and our people are models in the community of nations. Québec is now on the verge of becoming a full partner in the building of a strong and progressive Canada. It surely provides a basis for a better future together.

Monsieur le Premier ministre, je voudrais vous remercier chaleureusement pour votre contribution. Gouverner un pays comme le Canada est une tâche très exigeante. Pays immense, formé de plusieurs cultures, voisin du géant américain, il faut beaucoup de détermination, d'ouverture et d'aptitudes pour la conciliation. Vous avez certainement toutes ces qualités.

Châteaubriand disait: "L'homme de son pays est l'homme de son temps". Vous pouvez aujourd'hui, Monsieur le Premier ministre, être particulièrement fier d'être Premier ministre du Canada.

Nous partageons tous cette fierté. Avec cette ratification, une nouvelle époque commence maintenant dans notre pays.

Pour plusieurs Québécois, depuis 1981, à l'occasion de cette exclusion du Québec de la constitution canadienne, le Canada était un pays légal. Dorénavant, avec la ratification de l'Accord du Lac Meech, pour tous les Québécois, le Canada sera un vrai pays.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, Monsieur le Premier ministre.

When you are sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada, you quickly are exposed to the delights of federal-provincial relations and First Ministers' conferences.

One of the things that quickly becomes apparent, that in a federation such as this, Ontario's role is vital. It is indispensable, if you are going to make progress, that the Premier of Ontario bring to these considerations and these deliberations a vision of Canada that is at once elevated and generous.

For the many years that I have known him, long before he got into politics -- I won't say on what side -- I tried to get him with the other political party but he chose another route.

Long before he got into politics he had that same vision of Canada. David Peterson displayed that vision and that leadership again during the course of these very, very difficult and challenging days.

I suppose everyone who has been involved in this can point to a given incident and remember it for a long period of time.

I personally cannot remember an intervention more timely or more beneficial to Canada than the statement made by David Peterson a few hours ago, which I think was very instrumental in turning around a very difficult situation and turning it into a most impressive success.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with genuine pride that I ask the Premier of the province of Ontario, the Hon. David Peterson, to speak to us.

HON. DAVID PETERSON (PREMIER OF ONTARIO):

Thank you, Prime Minister. I would never have dreamed that I would be sitting here on a Saturday night at 12:30 in the morning, but you know, we have learned a lot from each other -- we're very rich -- weak in many respects and I think each one of us is going to go home a little richer in our understanding of each other.

When Gary Filmon went on television and said he did not have any underwear, somebody sent him 11 pairs of underwear. And I was on television and said I was running out of shirts and somebody sent me six shirts. Then Ghiz got on to this trick and Ghiz went on television and said he was running out of suits. Here are the results of it right here tonight.

THE CHAIRMAN:

I have been running out of votes.

HON. DAVID PETERSON:

You can see, Prime Minister, we are all doing our best to help you.

This discussion really started four and a half years ago. It is not a new discussion and I think many of us who concluded the Meech discussions three years ago thought it was done. I remember the feelings around the room that night. Many of my colleagues

were there. There was unanimity and it was seen as a great occasion in this country and it was, speaking for myself, a much easier discussion this last one we have had in the last week.

We had thought we had solved a problem that had arisen from the patriation of the Constitution in 1982, not that we were against that but we knew that there was an injustice to be rectified. We thought we had an honourable solution to that, done in good faith, and we wanted to make Canada whole and go on and deal with other problems, like Senate reform, that Don Getty talks so eloquently about and so many others.

But this country has changed in the three intervening years and the difficulties were more enhanced and we are all involved in some very, very difficult discussions.

Je dois dire, Robert, que je reconnais que le débat a été très, très difficile pour vos collègues au Canada anglais. Je suis sûr que vous respectez la force et l'intégrité de Bill Vander Zalm, Grant Devine, Don Getty, John Buchanan, Joe Ghiz, qui, depuis le début du Lac Meech, ont donné beaucoup d'appui au Lac Meech.

Ils étaient déterminés à ce que le Québec ne soit jamais isolé. Nous avons ce soir une autre occasion où le Québec n'est pas isolé.

Ce n'était pas facile pour vous, je le reconnais, parce qu'il y a trois ans que vous avez un accord avec le reste du Canada qui était la base d'un changement.

Il faut avoir beaucoup de patience et de courage. Je voudrais vous dire que vous avez beaucoup de leadership et j'ai beaucoup de respect pour cela.

Because you led your province to be a part of this country and I do not think there is anybody at this table that did not understand the enormous pressures on you, as there were on all of my other colleagues as well. And when I look back at this discussion and I look at some of the road blocks we have, I think Frank McKenna deserves an enormous amount of credit for getting it back on the rails. It looked dead six months ago and Frank, through bold and creative strokes, got the discussion going again, got Canadians back involved.

And you see, I would say to you, Prime Minister, there are many, many heroes in this piece. Every person sitting in this room has given a lot and I admire that.

What has happened is that we have moved from the original objectives of Meech Lake into a new and broader agenda. The original object was just to have Québec as part of Canada. But because things change -- and they do and they always will, because of Frank McKenna, Gary Filmon, Clyde Wells -- they brought new perspectives, new agendas and very strong intellectual cases to bear on something that had been done. And because of their leadership we are expanding that out today. This is not just the completion of Meech Lake; it is setting a new agenda for the future as well.

We are dealing with the problems that have been raised with respect to women, processes to include aboriginal people and multicultural people in our decision making, and we are driving the agenda for Canada ahead.

I congratulate you, Clyde, Gary, Frank, all of you, for this great addition to a great national debate. It is not a static situation and will never be. I think Canada has moved ahead a lot in the last three years, and it would not have happened had you not been here.

We have a job to make sure that our Constitution truly reflects the aspirations of our people. A constitution does not represent just a single view. It has to incorporate under its umbrella the dreams and aspirations of all Canadians, and that is why we are struggling with things like the Canada clause. That is why we are struggling with institutional reform, a fight led for a long time by Don Getty. Our institutions have to conform to the realities of this country. They have to respond to the cries and the voices from the regions that want a greater say in decision-making, and I understand that.

We are surely creative enough to build those kinds of institutions that are sensitive, that are responsive to Canadians, that evolve as the country evolves and lend a legitimate voice to all Canadians' hopes and aspirations.

One of the realities right now is that we have a number of disgruntled Canadians, if I may use the word, in many parts of the country who are not particularly satisfied with the relationship of their particular area with other areas. We are seeing an institutionalization of anti-movements, whose only political legitimacy is because they don't like somebody else in Canada. We can never allow that to take over. We have to build institutions which can fulfill their legitimate aspirations and participate in decision-making in this country.

We have started something important and you have all contributed, and I am very proud to be part of that. Mr. Prime Minister, I think we owe a lot of thanks in this room. Particularly we have to thank the Canadian people for their patience. Clyde started, and many others did, with the point that the process is inadequate, and they are absolutely right.

But lest we are too hard on ourselves, let us remind ourselves that this is the first time that this has ever been done in Canada. Until 1982 we took our Constitution to Westminster and it had to be passed in England. This was a process devised in 1982, and we are struggling with it. We have all learned a lot and we can all improve it. That is part of the growth of this country. I think all of us, as we have said in our document released today, are dedicated to changing the process to make it more open, to make it more sensitive and more responsive.

I also say thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, to the delegation that joined me and helped me and some of my colleagues a great deal throughout this difficult week. They added a lot of wisdom, I believe, to the discussions, and indeed some magic, when that was necessary, as well.

I am very honoured to have had the attendance of the Opposition leaders, Bob Rae and Mike Harris from the province of Ontario, who have been actively involved in looking for solutions.

This is not a partisan issue in any way, just as is demonstrated around this table. This is a Canadian issue that rises above partisanship for the greater good of all. I have seen that same spirit in other provinces and I have seen the leadership, Gary, of people like you in bringing everybody in to find a creative solution. I know that Canadians want this country to stay together.

Prime Minister, not only are you patient, it is not "the patience of Job" anymore, it is going to be "the patience of Mulroney" -- if you didn't have some of your bad habits, you might even make it within the Bible -- not only that, but a judgement and a shrewdness in guiding us along. This is not easy. It has been a difficult debate for three years, and I hope we are seeing tonight that we are very, very close to the end of this so we can get on to other things.

You know, someone once described Canada as a "solution looking for a problem". We are the envy of the world, and so many of you said it so more eloquently than I could do.

One of the things we have demonstrated, I think in the last week, is not that we do not have problems, because we do and we always will. What we have shown is that we have together the ability to solve problems and to keep moving forward, and I think that is one of the greatest demonstrations that we have seen in this conference today. We have to do the same things on the economy, on the environment, on job training, and on lots of other things that need the same kind of collective energy that we can accomplish better and more effectively together than we can individually. I have seen that and I am very, very proud.

We are always going to be engaged in problems. It's a question of how we solve them. I heard one creative answer that someone wanted to describe, putting it in the Preamble of the Constitution that a fundamental characteristic of Canada is constant constitutional change. That is something we could probably agree on at the end of the day.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am very proud to participate with my colleagues. I think we have made major steps forward. I think Canada is stronger as a result of it. I think it understands better its diversity as well as its generosity and its great love for each other. And as Gary said, we gave blood. We all gave blood, but it flowed into a common crucible which is Canada. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN:

My colleagues, during the run-up to this meeting, Senator Murray, I and others, spent a great deal of time meeting with and consulting with the leaders of the North. Before the conference began, I met with both leaders of the territories and invited them to be with us tonight.

The North is our future and it is often forgotten, and I suppose all of us are guilty of that. In many ways, many of the improvements that we see in the Meech Lake Accord brought about by the Manitoba position, dealing with the North, the aboriginal peoples, the New Brunswick suggestions, all of these were worked at very strongly by the two leaders who are with us tonight.

When last I met with them, I told them that if we had a successful conference, which I hoped for, that I know that all Canadians would like to hear from them this evening.

So, I am delighted to ask Tony Penikett, who is the First Minister of the Yukon Territory, to please speak to the nation.

HON. TONY PENIKETT (GOVERNMENT LEADER - YUKON TERRITORY):

On this occasion, in the presence of so many statesmen, Prime Minister, I hope you will forgive me if I am just a bit provincial.

Over the past three years, Canadians have undergone a rigorous process of self-examination. We have been forced to scrutinize our national institutions, to question what we have always accepted as given, to identify what kind of relationship we want with other Canadians. Yukoners, too, have been taking part in this national exercise.

Our geographic and demographic isolation has, if anything, made us particularly sensitive to our common bonds, to the threads of identity that make Canada, "Canada".

Like all Canadians, we possess a certain amount of regional chauvinism, but we have always understood that we are part of a greater whole. The North is a noun, but it also an adjective that modifies all parts of Canada.

C'est dans cet esprit que nous du Yukon avons toujours appuyé les cinq conditions tout à fait légitimes du Québec. Nous appuyons les efforts du Québec à vouloir faire partie d'un Canada qui reconnaît le caractère distinct de sa société, de sa culture, et de son héritage.

En tant que Canadiens du Nord, nous avons aussi compris le Québec lorsqu'il s'est vu mis à l'écart du "club constitutionnel" en 1982. Nous comprenons les frustrations, voir même la colère, que les Québécois ont pu ressentir lorsque les neuf autres provinces célébraient.

In the North, we too, felt alienated by the Constitution Act of 1982. The Territories would now have to meet much more stringent criteria for joining Confederation than any of the existing provinces. At the time of that amendment, Northerners vigorously protested the imposition of these new requirements, and our rejection of the 1982 formula was swift and unanimous.

When the Meech Lake Accord was reached in 1987, like Canadians of every region and political stripe, we were pleased to see national unity promoted through Québec's signing of the Constitution.

We were gratified that this earlier omission was being remedied, that the legitimate demands of Québec were being addressed. But, we admit we were saddened to learn that the same document which was intended to bring about constitutional healing and bring Québec into the constitutional family, in several important ways, disadvantaged the Territories.

We feared it would make provincehood virtually impossible for the Territories in that we would now need the permission of every existing province as well as the federal government in order to enter Confederation. By itself, the Meech Lake Accord left open the possibility of provincial encroachment upon our borders and it denied us the right to nominate senators and Supreme Court justices.

To the average Yukoner, Prime Minister, our plight was like Euripedes' Iphoigenia. To us it seemed as if we would be sacrificed, not so that a battle could be won or a victory gained, but only in the hope that a fair wind would blow on an enterprise that many doubted.

During the last three years we have made a nuisance of ourselves. We have continually sought resolution to our objections of the Meech Lake Accord in whatever fora were available to us in the courts, in the media and in legislative hearings. Today it has been agreed that our most important objection to the Meech Lake Accord will be addressed, not now but later, and to be frank, such a promise does not represent a totally satisfying resolution for the North, but it is an agreement to revisit this fundamental question and for that we are very thankful.

I must say to the First Ministers here that until this issue is settled, we shall continue to be apprehensive about our constitutional future. However, the political situation in Canada today requires that we put our faith in Confederation.

We have no choice but to trust the First Ministers of this land for without a measure of mutual respect and goodwill, this country simply cannot function. All of us want Canada to succeed. All of us want to play our part in this federation.

While we have not achieved here everything we want, there are some elements of today's accord which please us greatly. We are encouraged that the issue of the creation of new provinces is now number one on the agenda for future conferences, that aboriginal rights are to be considered, once more, is tremendously important to Yukoners. We would join these discussions with enthusiasm and energy.

Aboriginal people must be intimately involved in establishing the agenda and leading participants in this process.

This is vitally important to our region, and we pray that this time there will be success in resolving these questions of essential interest to Canada's First Nations, the people who governed this land for thousands of years.

We are also gratified that we shall be able to nominate, when the time comes, senators and justices to the Supreme Court of Canada. We are pleased to be full participants in the public process on Senate reform and we support this exercise in democratic reform. Most heartening is the promise that for these important conferences the North will actually be at the table.

Prime Minister, a week in this delightful building has not dulled our enthusiasm for this goal.

We have long believed that the reason the needs of the North have been neglected in the past is because we have usually had no representation when substantial decisions were being made. And with all due respect, the priorities of the federal government are not those of the Territory, and it is wrong to assume that it will always act only in our interest.

This, of course, is not a criticism of the federal government but a recognition that one's perspective can only be represented by oneself. The right to a voice means a lot to the people of the North. We do not imagine that our agendas will automatically be adopted by others, or that our demands will be rubber-stamped, but to have the opportunity to add our viewpoint to make sure our perspective is known, is welcome news.

I believe that I have had the opportunity to speak to all of you at the table about our priorities, and I want to assure you that they have not changed. We will be immensely pleased to take part in the constitutional discussions arising from today's agenda, but we will be there asking for what we have always asked for: that the same criteria be used when other provinces applied to join confederation be applied to the Yukon.

In order for this accord to bear fruit, all governments must be truly committed. The Yukon government must do what it has done so many times in the past: trust in the good will of Canada, just as you at this table must trust that we in the Yukon know what is best for us.

During this long process, this very long debate, the wrongs that we feel were done the North in 1982 and in 1987 have been acknowledged by several First Ministers. Their recognition of our cause was gratifying and will be well remembered by Yukoners. We thank them for their understanding and encouragement and trust that they will continue to support our cause.

I also commend each of you for a week of incredible dedication and hard work.

Thank you, Prime Minister, and you, Senator Murray, for bringing us into this circle. And I congratulate Senator Murray on becoming, as I understand he has or is to be shortly, a senator from Newfoundland.

After three years of debate and discussion, it is clear to us that constitutional evolution is not a series of discrete steps but a fluid process. We will meet again, as we have in the past, and I hope work together to create a Constitution which all Canadians, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, French and English, east and west, south and north, recognize as the sum of this country.

Merci. Sarah and Stephanie, papa entre la maison bientt.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Tony.

May I call on Denis Patterson, the First Minister of the Northwest Territories next.

HON. DENIS PATTERSON (GOVERNMENT LEADER - NORTHWEST TERRITORIES):

Mr. Prime Minister, honourable Premiers, I guess we are the last around this table to speak. But as the largest jurisdiction represented here, I know we are not the least.

First, if I may, just a few words in Inuktitut, now one of the eight official languages of the Northwest Territories, including English and French.

Qjuviasuviingarqunga katimajuniigunarama ullumi kigarqtuillunga Nunatsiaqmiunik. (Translation: I am very happy to be here at this meeting today representing the people of the Northwest Territories.)

I am very proud to be here today representing the people of the Northwest Territories, along with my Minister of Justice, the honourable Michael Ballantyne, who chairs our Legislature's special committee on constitutional reform and our hard-working delegation.

I want to say that we have worked hard to win a place at this table on this very historic day. And I want to express my thanks to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and to all First Ministers for your willingness to include the Territories at the table in this historic and challenging process of nation building.

J'aimerais aussi exprimer toute mon appréciation à vous, personnellement, monsieur le Premier ministre, sénateur Murray, messieurs les Premiers ministres des provinces, messieurs les ministres et les autres représentants provinciaux pour les consultations tenues avec nous durant les derniers mois au fur et à mesure que cet accord s'est développé.

I have had frank discussions with most of you around this table. You have taken the time to consider and discuss with me the issues of concern to the Northwest Territories and your governments or regions. I look forward to continuing these good relations after this round is concluded, for the first time as a formal participant with a seat at the table.

When the Meech Lake Accord was reached some three years ago, the Northwest Territories had a number of concerns with it. I am pleased to say that many of these concerns have been addressed and we trust that in future rounds the commitments made here today will be carried out. We were concerned that outstanding constitutional matters pertaining to aboriginal peoples could not be resolved unless there was some process dedicated to this goal. We are encouraged by your commitment to reactivate constitutional conferences with the aboriginal peoples to address these matters. However, the recognition of the fundamental importance of aboriginal peoples to Canada remains an outstanding matter. We will continue to support aboriginal peoples as they strive to realize this goal. The matter is of fundamental importance to the aboriginal majority of our population in the N.W.T.

We were also concerned that our contributions to national constitutional and economic matters would not be realized unless we were able to participate directly in First Ministers' Conferences. I am pleased you have agreed to invite the leaders of the territorial governments to these conferences, where our interests are directly affected.

Mr. Prime Minister, I can assure you that we fully intend to honour our long-standing commitment, and I would like to think we have a record of bringing to the table a constructive and positive presence.

We were concerned that under the Meech Lake Accord residents of the Northwest Territories and Yukon could not be nominated for the Supreme Court and Senate by territorial governments. We do have a bar and we do have senators. You have addressed this concern by ensuring that territorial governments will also be permitted to nominate candidates for these offices.

We are also pleased that the North will be there during constitutional meetings on Senate reform, including involvement in the commission which will soon be established.

In particular, we applaud the objectives of this commission, which call for reform that will result in a more equitable representation for the less populous provinces and territories in the Senate and in national decision-making.

As you all know, a major concern with the Meech Lake Accord was the veto which each province received over the admission of new provinces. Frankly, Mr. Prime Minister, we are disappointed that amendments were not made in this round to establish what we consider a fair process for the territories to attain provincehood.

However, we are encouraged today by your strong political commitment to pursue this objective as a priority. I want to say that we will continue our efforts to achieve our objective of taking our place as full members in the Canadian family, which will include the peoples and the great regions of the North.

We look forward to thoughtful and reasoned discussions in the very near future on the pre-1982 formula by which other provinces joined Confederation.

I want to thank Premier Frank McKenna for leading the way on this issue when he initiated discussions on a companion resolution in March and to other First Ministers who have expressed their support, particularly Premiers Filmon and Wells, who early

on expressed their helpful views on this issue. The Charest Report -- and both our MPs have been involved with that committee -- also supported a return to the pre-1982 formula for creating new provinces.

From my discussions with many of you, I believe we have already made substantial gains in support for a return to the old pre-1982 formula. We expect, therefore, that this matter can be resolved quickly and fairly and we shall pursue this goal immediately and with vigour, especially from the vantage point of a place at the constitutional table.

In closing, Mr. Prime Minister, Premiers, I know you have had to wrestle with fundamental issues during these past few days, issues which reflect our past, the present and our future.

We are very pleased that Québec will take its rightful place in Canada and that we are well on our way to addressing and resolving the other constitutional challenges which lie ahead.

If there is one thing I have observed from the experience of the past few weeks, and I have travelled from one end of this great country to the other, it is that many Canadians from all regions are more conscious now of just how precious this great nation is and perhaps how fragile our Federation had become.

Today's breakthrough, I am confident, will create the climate to reinforce the confidence of all Canadians in a united Canada.

Thank you; merci beaucoup; mahsi-cho; qujannamiik.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Dennis, and thank you, colleagues.

Just a brief word, if you will allow me.

Success anywhere is usually the result of not a great scheme but the coming together of a disciplined and talented team of men and women.

Tonight I want to thank very sincerely all the people of the Government of Canada who worked so long and so hard with me and with all of you to bring about what has been a most remarkable result.

In particular, if you will allow me, you can imagine that when I embarked upon this course, I can assure you that I chose with the greatest of care the people who would carry the responsibility with me in this.

I selected Senator Murray, an old and valued friend of mine for over 30 years, to accept the responsibilities of federal-provincial relations in this country.

He, Paul Tellier, le greffier du Conseil privé et le Secrétaire du Cabinet, et mon conseiller remarquable, Norman Spector, Stanley Hartt, Mary Dawson, Roger Tassé, pour ne nommer que le petit groupe avec lequel je me trouvais sur une base assez régulière.

Je veux également remercier mes collègues du Conseil des ministres qui sont avec moi ce soir; my Cabinet and caucus colleagues who are here tonight.

This has been a long road for all of us. There were moments of difficulty, as you know, and I want to thank them all for hanging in there with me, sometimes when it didn't look too bright and the prospects were not as rosy as I would have wanted them.

I always thought that the Meech Lake Accord, which brought quality to provinces and fairness to regions, was also a bridge to the future. It brought about a united Canada and that bridge would allow new generations of Québécois to find for themselves the glories of a united Canada.

Quel pays merveilleux ce Canada. Quelles possibilités remarquables l'avenir qu'il nous offre.

Les efforts de tous les Premiers ministres ont été consacrés en faveur d'un pays, le Canada uni, qui deviendra de plus en plus prospère, qui nous permettra d'acquérir une plus grande dimension de justice sociale pour toutes nos régions, pour tous nos citoyens et citoyennes.

Un mot spécial de remerciement à vous tous, chers collègues. To my fellow Canadians, my gratitude for your patience and kindness.

One day historians will place a value judgment on what we have done. We will have made it possible for one of the founding provinces of this nation to reenter the Canadian family in the way we would all like to enter a family: by the front door.

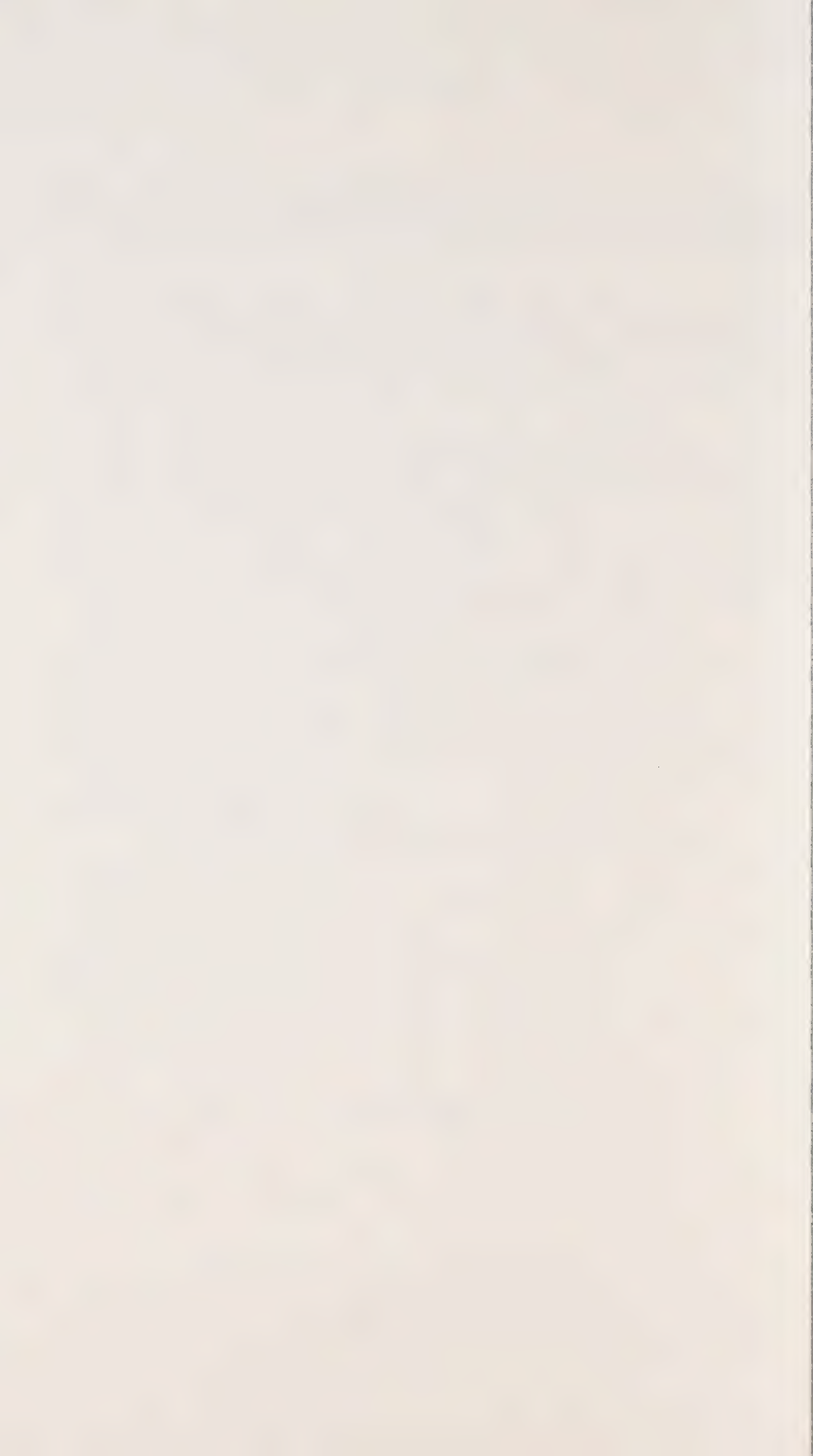
A family is only truly together in the spirit that was developed this week, when you hear the Premier of Québec speaking of his joy at bringing this magnificent province back into the heart of the family, becoming full, willing and enthusiastic partners in this great Canadian nation. Someday they are going to place a valued judgment on what we have done and they will probably compare it with what went before and what followed.

I feel absolutely certain that, when they look at it and examine the challenges before us, they are going to say that we did the right thing because we stood for a united Canada. I believe that any time you stand for the unity of this magnificent Canada, you are not going wrong.

My thanks to all of you. Let us now adjourn this meeting to June 23rd, proclamation day of the Meech Lake Accord.

--- All participants joined in the signing of "O' Canada"
--- Tous les participants se sont joints pour chanter
"O' Canada"

--- ADJOURNMENT / AJOURNEMENT



DOCUMENT: 800-029/001

**FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
ON THE CONSTITUTION**

Ottawa, Ontario

June 9 and 10, 1990

Agenda

1. Discussion on the 1987 Constitutional Accord (Meech Lake)
2. Statements

CONFÉRENCE DES PREMIERS MINISTRES
SUR LA CONSTITUTION

Ottawa (Ontario)

Les 9 et 10 juin 1990

Ordre du jour

1. Discussion sur l'Accord constitutionnel de 1987 (Lac Meech)
2. Déclarations

DOCUMENT: 800-029/005

FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
ON THE CONSTITUTION

CONFÉRENCE DES PREMIERS MINISTRES
SUR LA CONSTITUTION

June 9 and 10, 1990

Les 9 et 10 juin 1990

OTTAWA

List of First Ministers and Ministers

Liste des Premiers ministres et Ministres

CANADA

The Right Honourable Martin Brian Mulroney CHAIRMAN / PRÉSIDENT
Prime Minister / Premier ministre

The Right Honourable Joe Clark
Secretary of State for External Affairs

The Honourable John C. Crosbie
Minister for International Trade

The Honourable Don Mazankowski
Deputy Prime Minister
President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada
Minister of Agriculture

The Honourable Jake Epp
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

The Honourable Perrin Beatty
Minister of National Health and Welfare

The Honourable Michael Holcombe Wilson
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Thomas E. Siddon
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs

The Honourable Charles Mayer
Minister of Western Economic Diversification
Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)

The Honourable William McKnight
Minister of National Defence

L'honorable Benoît Bouchard
Ministre de l'Industrie, des Sciences et de la Technologie

L'honorable Marcel Masse
Ministre des Communications

The Honourable Barbara McDougall
Minister of Employment and Immigration

The Honourable Monique Vézina
Minister of State (Employment and Immigration)

The Honourable Lowell Murray
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister of State (Federal-Provincial Relations)

The Honourable Paul Dick
Minister of Supply and Services

L'honorable Bernard Valcourt
Ministre des Pêches et des Océans

The Honourable Doug Lewis
Minister of Transport

L'honorable Pierre Blais
Ministre des Consommateurs et des Sociétés
Ministre d'État (Agriculture)

The Honourable Shirley Martin
Minister of State (Indian Affairs)

The Honourable Alan Redway
Minister of State (Housing)

The Honourable William Winegard
Minister of State (Science and Technology)

The Honourable Kim Campbell
Minister of Justice
Attorney General of Canada

The Honourable Jean Corbeil
Minister of Public Works

L'honorable Gilles Loiselle
Ministre d'État (Finances)

The Honourable Marcel Danis
Minister of State (Youth)
Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)

The Honourable Monique Tremblay
Minister of External Relations

The Honourable Frank Oberle
Minister of State (Forestry)

ONTARIO

The Honourable David Peterson
Premier
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Ian G. Scott
Attorney General
Minister Responsible for Native Affairs

QUÉBEC

Monsieur Robert Bourassa
Premier ministre

Monsieur John Ciaccia
Ministre des Affaires internationales

Monsieur Gil Rémillard
Ministre délégué aux Affaires intergouvernementales
canadiennes
Ministre de la Justice

NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

The Honourable John M. Buchanan
Premier

NEW BRUNSWICK / NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

The Honourable Francis Joseph McKenna
Premier

The Honourable Aldéa Landry
President of the Executive Council
Minister Responsible for the Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable James Lockyer
Minister of Justice

MANITOBA

The Honourable Gary Filmon
Premier

The Honourable James Collus McCrae
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs

BRITISH COLUMBIA / COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

The Honourable William N. Vander Zalm
Premier

The Honourable Bud Smith
Attorney General

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND / ÎLE-DU-PRINCE-ÉDOUARD

The Honourable Joseph Ghiz
Premier

The Honourable Wayne D. Cheverie
Minister of Health and Social Services

SASKATCHEWAN

The Honourable Grant Devine
Premier

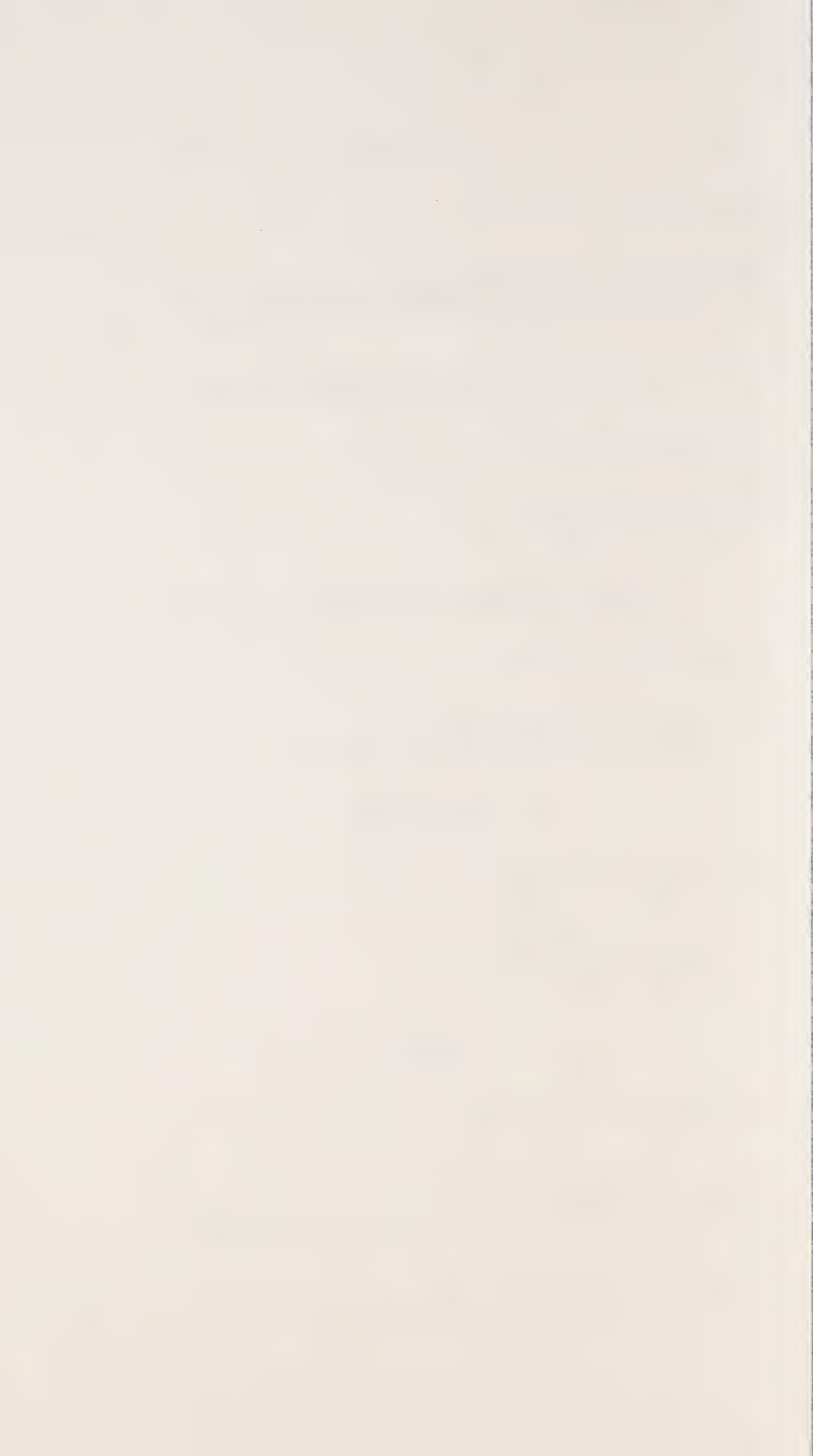
The Honourable J. Gary Lane
Minister of Justice
Attorney General

ALBERTA

The Honourable Don R. Getty
Premier

The Honourable James D. Horsman
Deputy Premier
Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Ray Speaker
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Minister Responsible for Housing



NEWFOUNDLAND / TERRE-NEUVE

The Honourable Clyde K. Wells
Premier

The Honourable Paul Dicks
Minister of Justice

FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

June 9-10, 1990

1990 CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT

WHEREAS on April 30, 1987, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premiers reached agreement in principle on means to bring about the full and active participation of Quebec in Canada's constitutional evolution;

AND WHEREAS on June 3, 1987, all first ministers signed the 1987 Constitutional Accord and committed themselves to introducing as soon as possible the Constitution Amendment, 1987 in Parliament and the provincial legislative assemblies;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution Amendment, 1987 has been authorized by Parliament and the legislative assemblies of Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia:

1. THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD

The Premiers of New Brunswick, Manitoba and Newfoundland undertake to submit the Constitution Amendment, 1987 for appropriate legislative or public consideration and to use every possible effort to achieve decision prior to June 23, 1990.

2. SENATE REFORM

After proclamation, the federal government and the provinces will constitute a commission with equal representation for each province and an appropriate number of territorial and federal representatives to conduct hearings and to report to Parliament and the legislative assemblies of the provinces and territories, prior to the First Ministers' Conference on the Senate to be held by the end of 1990 in British Columbia, on specific proposals for Senate reform that will give effect to the following objectives:

- The Senate should be elected.
- The Senate should provide for more equitable representation of the less populous provinces and territories.
- The Senate should have effective powers to ensure the interests of residents of the less populous provinces and territories figure more prominently in national decision-making, reflect Canadian duality and strengthen the Government of Canada's capacity to govern on behalf of all citizens, while preserving the principle of the responsibility of the Government to the House of Commons.

Following proclamation of the Meech Lake Accord, the Prime Minister and all Premiers agree to seek adoption of an amendment on comprehensive Senate reform consistent with these objectives by July 1, 1995.

The Prime Minister undertakes to report semi-annually to the House of Commons on progress achieved towards comprehensive Senate reform.

The Prime Minister and all Premiers, reaffirming the commitment made in the Edmonton Declaration and the provisions to be entrenched under the Constitution Amendment, 1987, undertook that Senate reform will be the key constitutional priority until comprehensive reform is achieved.

If, by July 1, 1995, comprehensive Senate reform has not been achieved according to the objectives set out above under section 41 of the Constitution Act, 1982, as amended by the Constitution Amendment, 1987, the number of Senators by which a province is entitled to be represented in the Senate will be amended so that, of the total of one hundred and four Senators, the representation of Ontario will be eighteen Senators, the representation of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland will be eight Senators each, and the representation of all other provinces and the territories will remain unchanged. In the case of any province whose representation declined, no new appointments would be made until that province's representation had by attrition declined below its new maximum. In the event of such a redistribution of Senate seats, Newfoundland would be entitled to another Member of Parliament in the House of Commons under section 51A of the Constitution Act, 1867.

3. FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

(1) Charter - Sex Equality Rights

- Add section 28 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to section 16 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987.

(2) Role of the Territories

- In appointments to the Senate and the Supreme Court of Canada.
- In discussions on items on the agenda of annual constitutional and economic conferences where, in the view of the Prime Minister, matters to be discussed directly affect them.

(3) Language Issues

- Add to the agenda of constitutional conferences matters that are of interest to English-speaking and French-speaking linguistic minorities.
- Require resolutions of the House of Commons, the Senate and the legislative assembly of New Brunswick to amend that province's Act Recognizing the Equality of the Two Official Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick (Bill 88).

(4) Aboriginal Constitutional Issues

- First Ministers' constitutional conferences to be held once every three years, the first to be held within one year of proclamation; representatives of aboriginal peoples and the territorial

governments to be invited by the Prime Minister to participate in the discussion of matters of interest to the aboriginal peoples of Canada.

The Prime Minister of Canada will lay or cause to be laid before the Senate and House of Commons, and the Premiers will lay or cause to be laid before their legislative assemblies, a resolution, in the form appended hereto, and will seek to authorize a proclamation to be issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada to amend the Constitution of Canada as soon as possible after proclamation of the Constitution Amendment, 1987.

4. AGENDA FOR FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS

(1) Creation of New Provinces in the Territories

The Prime Minister and all Premiers agreed future constitutional conferences should address available options for provincehood, including the possibility that, at the request of the Yukon and Northwest Territories to become provinces, only a resolution of the House of Commons and Senate be required.

(2) Constitutional Recognitions

The Prime Minister and Premiers took note of repeated attempts by First Ministers over the past twenty years to draft a statement of constitutional recognitions. All such attempts were unsuccessful.

The Prime Minister and Premiers reviewed drafts submitted by the federal government and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and British Columbia, and agreed to refer immediately the drafts to an all-party Special Committee of the House of Commons. Public hearings would begin across Canada on July 16, 1990 and a report on the substance and placement of the clause - in a manner consistent with the Constitution of Canada - would be prepared for consideration by First Ministers at their Conference in 1990.

(3) Constitutional Reviews

The Prime Minister and all Premiers agreed jointly to review, at the constitutional conference required by section 49 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the entire process of amending the Constitution, including the three-year time limit under section 39(2) of that Act and the question of mandatory public hearings prior to adopting any measure related to a constitutional amendment, including revocation of a constitutional resolution.

Pursuant to section 50 of the Constitution Act, 1982, as proposed in the Constitution Amendment, 1987, the Prime Minister and the Premiers also committed to a continuing review of the operation of the Constitution of Canada, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, with a view to making any appropriate constitutional amendments.

5. SECTION 2: CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT, 1987

The Prime Minister and Premiers took note of public discussion of the distinct society clause since its inclusion in the Meech Lake Accord. A number of Canada's most distinguished constitutional authorities met to exchange views on the legal impact of the clause. The Prime Minister and Premiers reviewed their advice and other material.

The Prime Minister, in his capacity as chairman of the Conference, received from the above-noted constitutional authorities a legal opinion which is appended to the final Conference communiqué.

6. NEW BRUNSWICK AMENDMENT

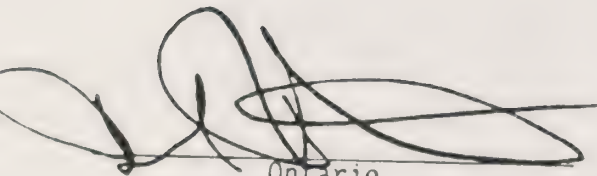
- Add a clause that within New Brunswick, the English linguistic community and the French linguistic community have equality of status and equal rights and privileges.
- Affirm an additional role of the legislature and government of New Brunswick: to preserve and promote the equality of status and equal rights and privileges of the province's two official linguistic communities.

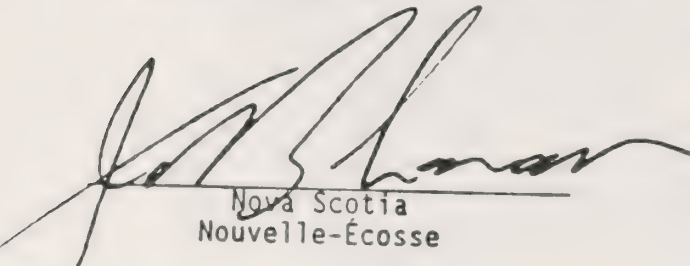
The Prime Minister of Canada will lay or cause to be laid before the Senate and House of Commons, and the Premier of New Brunswick will lay or cause to be laid before the legislative assembly of New Brunswick, a resolution, in the form appended hereto, and will seek to authorize a proclamation to be issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada to amend the Constitution of Canada as soon as possible after proclamation of the Constitution Amendment, 1987.

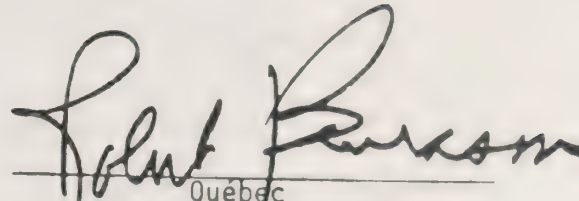
Signed at Ottawa,
June 9, 1990

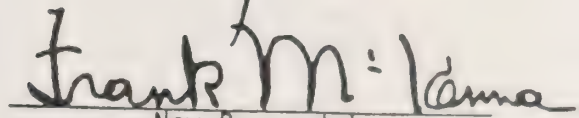
Fait à Ottawa
le 9 juin 1990

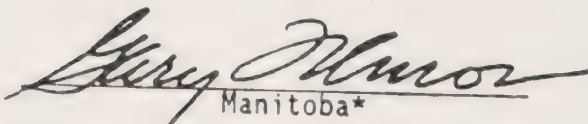

Canada

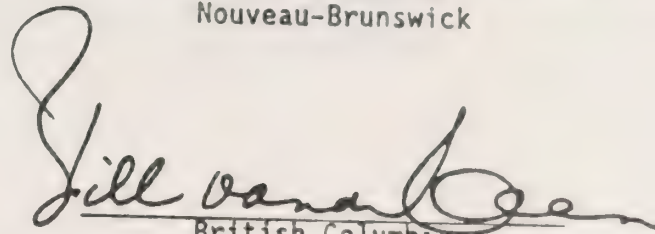

Ontario


Nova Scotia
Nouvelle-Écosse


Québec

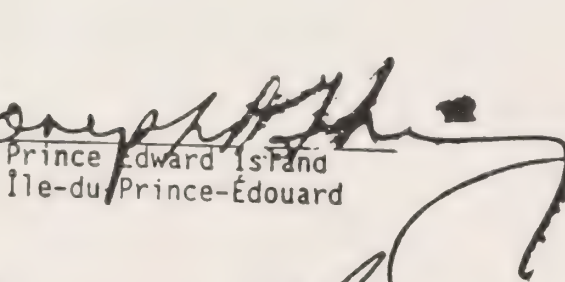

New Brunswick
Nouveau-Brunswick

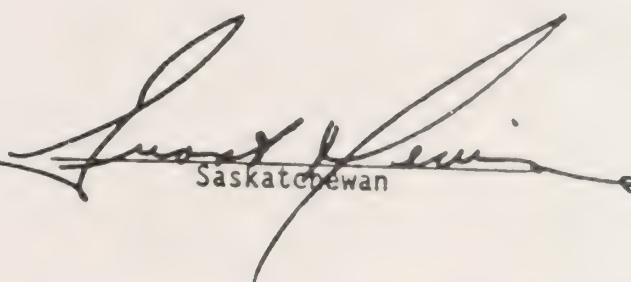

Manitoba*

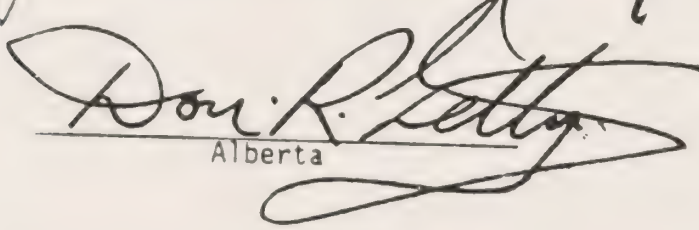

British Columbia
Colombie-Britannique

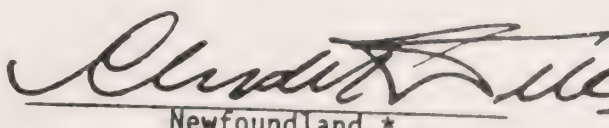
* Subject to the public
hearing process

* Sous réserve du processus
d'audiences publiques


Prince Edward Island
Île-du-Prince-Édouard


Saskatchewan


Alberta


Newfoundland *
Terre-Neuve

* The Premier of Newfoundland endorses now the undertaking in Part I of this document and further undertakes to endorse fully this agreement if the Constitution Amendment, 1987 is given legislative or public approval following the consultation provided for in Part I.

* Le premier ministre de Terre-Neuve endosse maintenant l'engagement figurant dans la Partie I du présent document et s'engage en outre à endosser la totalité de la présente entente si la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 reçoit une approbation législative ou publique à Terre-Neuve suite aux consultations prévues à la Partie I.

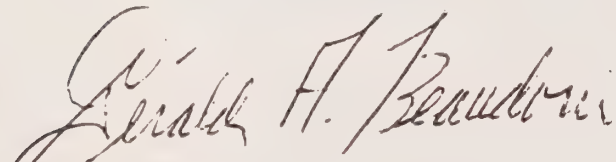
OTTAWA
June 9, 1990

Dear Prime Minister:

In response to certain concerns which have been expressed in relation to section 1 of the proposed Constitution Amendment, 1987 (Meech Lake Accord), it is our pleasure to confirm our opinion on the following.

In our opinion, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms will be interpreted in a manner consistent with the duality/distinct society clause of the proposed Constitution Amendment, 1987 (Meech Lake Accord), but the rights and freedoms guaranteed thereunder are not infringed or denied by the application of the clause and continue to be guaranteed subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society, and the duality/distinct society clause may be considered, in particular, in the application of section 1 of the Charter.

The Constitution of Canada, including sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution Act, 1867, will be interpreted in a manner consistent with the duality/distinct society clause. While nothing in that clause creates new legislative authority for Parliament or any of the provincial legislatures, or derogates from any of their legislative authority, it may be considered in determining whether a particular law fits within the legislative authority of Parliament or any of the legislatures.



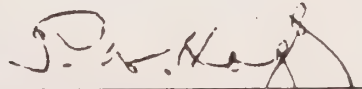
Gerald-A. Beaudoin, O.C., Q.C.
Professor of Law
University of Ottawa



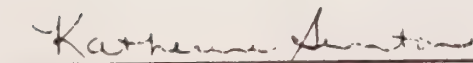
B. Jamie Cameron
Associate Professor
Osgoode Hall Law School
York University



E. Robert A. Edwards, Q.C.
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Government of British Columbia



Peter W. Hogg, Q.C.
Professor
Osgoode Hall Law School
York University



Katherine Swinton
Professor, Faculty of Law
University of Toronto



Roger Tassé, O.C., Q.C.
Barrister and Solicitor

Motion for a Resolution to authorize an amendment
to the Constitution of Canada

The (Senate) (House of Commons) (legislative assembly) resolves
that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada be authorized to be
made by proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor General
under the Great Seal of Canada in accordance with the schedule hereto,
but only after the Constitution Amendment, 1987 comes into force.

SCHEDULE

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

PART I

Constitution Act, 1867

1. Section 25 of the Constitution Act, 1867, as enacted by section 2 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, is amended by adding thereto, immediately after the word "province" wherever it occurs therein, the words "or territory".

2.(1) Subsection 101C(1) of the said Act, as enacted by section 6 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, is amended by adding thereto, immediately after the word "province" wherever it occurs therein, the words "or territory".

(2) Subsection 101C(4) of the said Act, as enacted by section 6 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, is amended by adding thereto, immediately after the word "province" where it occurs therein, the words ", or territory,".

3. Section 148 of the said Act, as enacted by section 8 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, is renumbered as subsection 148(1) and is further amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

Partici-
pation of
Territories

"(2) The Prime Minister of Canada shall invite elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to participate in the discussions on any item on the agenda of a conference convened under subsection (1) that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories."

Constitution Act, 1982

4. Section 43 of the Constitution Act, 1982 is renumbered as subsection 43(1) and is further amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

Amendment
to New
Brunswick
Act

"(2) An amendment to the Act of the Legislature of New Brunswick entitled An Act Recognizing the Equality of the Two Official Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick, chapter 0-1.1 of the Acts of New Brunswick, 1981, may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada only where so authorized by resolutions of the Senate and House of Commons and of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick."

5.(1) Subsection 50(2) of the said Act, as enacted by section 13 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, is amended by adding thereto, immediately after paragraph (a) thereof, the following paragraph:

"(a.1) matters of interest to English-speaking and French-speaking linguistic minorities;"

(2) Section 50 of the said Act, as enacted by section 13 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, is further amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

Participation of the territories

"(3) The Prime Minister of Canada shall invite elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to participate in the discussions on any item on the agenda of a conference convened under subsection (1) that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories."

6. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 50 thereof, as enacted by section 13 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987, the following section:

Constitutional conference

"51.(1) A constitutional conference composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces shall be convened by the Prime Minister of Canada within one year after this Part comes into force and at least once in every third calendar year after the first such conference is convened.

Participation of aboriginal peoples

(2) Each conference convened under subsection (1) shall have included in its agenda matters of interest to the aboriginal peoples of Canada, and the Prime Minister of Canada shall invite representatives of those peoples to participate in the discussions on those matters.

Participation of territories

(3) The Prime Minister of Canada shall invite elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to participate in the discussions on any item on the agenda of a conference convened under subsection (1) that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

Non-derogation

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to derogate from section 35."

Constitution Amendment, 1987

7. Section 16 of the Constitution Amendment, 1987 is amended by adding thereto, immediately after the reference to section 27 where it occurs therein, the following: "or 28".

PART II

Constitution Act, 1867

8. All that portion of section 22 of the Constitution Act, 1867 following item 4 and preceding the last paragraph thereof is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"which Four Divisions shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be represented in the Senate as follows: Ontario by eighteen Senators; Quebec by twenty-four Senators; the Maritime Provinces and Prince Edward Island by twenty Senators, eight thereof representing Nova Scotia, eight thereof representing New Brunswick, and four thereof representing Prince Edward Island; the Western Provinces by thirty-two Senators, eight thereof representing Manitoba, eight thereof representing British Columbia, eight thereof representing Saskatchewan, and eight thereof representing Alberta; Newfoundland shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by eight members; the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by one member each."

9. Section 27 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

Reduction
of Senate
to normal
number

"27. In case of such addition being at any time made, the Governor General shall not summon any person to the Senate, except on a further like direction by the Queen on the like recommendation, to represent one of the Four Divisions until such Division is represented by the number of Senators provided for by section 22 and no more."

Transi-
tional
provision

10. Notwithstanding section 22 of the Constitution Act, 1867, any province that is represented in the Senate on the coming into force of this Part by more Senators than are provided for under that section may continue to be so represented, but no additional persons may be summoned to the Senate to represent that province until the number of Senators representing that province falls below the number set out in section 22, and thereafter, subject to section 26, the number representing that province shall not exceed that number.

11.(1) This Part shall not come into force if an amendment in relation to the Senate that is consistent with the objectives set out in the 1990 Constitutional Agreement signed at Ottawa on June 9, 1990 is made before July 1, 1995.

(2) If an amendment described in subsection (1) is not made before July 1, 1995, this Part shall come into force on that date.

Citation

Citation

12. This amendment may be cited as the Constitution Amendment, (year of proclamation).

Motion for a Resolution to authorize an amendment
to the Constitution of Canada

The (Senate) (House of Commons) (legislative assembly)
resolves that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada be
authorized to be made by proclamation issued by His Excellency
the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada in accordance
with the schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Constitution Act, 1867

1. The Constitution Act, 1867 is amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 133 thereof, the following section:

Interpre-
tation

"133.1(1) The Constitution of Canada, as it relates to New Brunswick, shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the recognition that, within New Brunswick, the English linguistic community and the French linguistic community have equality of status and equal rights and privileges.

Role of
legisla-
ture and
Government
of New
Brunswick

(2) The role of the legislature and Government of New Brunswick to preserve and promote the equality of status and equal rights and privileges of the two linguistic communities referred to in subsection (1) is affirmed.

Rights of
legisla-
tures and
govern-
ments
preserved

(3) Nothing in this section derogates from the powers, rights or privileges of Parliament or the Government of Canada, or of the legislature or Government of New Brunswick, including any powers, rights or privileges relating to language."

Citation

Citation

2. This amendment may be cited as the Constitution Amendment, (year of proclamation) (New Brunswick).

RENCONTRE DES PREMIERS MINISTRES SUR LA CONSTITUTION

COMMUNIQUE FINAL

Les 9 et 10 JUIN 1990

ENTENTE CONSTITUTIONNELLE DE 1990

Attendu que, le 30 avril 1987, le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres des provinces ont conclu une entente de principe sur les moyens d'assurer la participation pleine et entière du Québec à l'évolution constitutionnelle du Canada;

Attendu que, le 3 juin 1987, tous les premiers ministres ont signé l'Accord constitutionnel de 1987 et se sont engagés à saisir le plus tôt possible le Parlement et les assemblées législatives provinciales de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987;

Attendu que la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 a été autorisée par le Parlement et les assemblées législatives du Québec, de la Saskatchewan, de l'Alberta, de l'île-du-Prince-Édouard, de la Nouvelle-Écosse, de l'Ontario et de la Colombie-Britannique :

1. ACCORD DU LAC MEECH

Les premiers ministres du Nouveau-Brunswick, du Manitoba et de Terre-Neuve s'engagent à soumettre la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 à l'examen législatif ou public approprié et à tout mettre en oeuvre afin qu'une décision soit prise avant le 23 juin 1990.

2. RÉFORME DU SÉNAT

Après la proclamation de l'Accord du lac Meech, le gouvernement fédéral et les gouvernements des provinces constitueront une commission où chaque province sera également représentée et qui comprendra un nombre approprié de représentants territoriaux et fédéraux. Cette commission tiendra des audiences et fera rapport au Parlement et aux assemblées législatives des provinces et territoires, avant la Conférence des premiers ministres sur le Sénat qui doit se tenir d'ici la fin de 1990, en Colombie-Britannique, concernant des propositions précises dont la base serait les paramètres suivants :

- Le Sénat devrait être élu.
- Le Sénat devrait garantir une représentation plus équitable des provinces moins peuplées et des territoires.
- Le Sénat devrait détenir des pouvoirs réels afin que la prise des décisions au niveau national tienne davantage compte des intérêts des habitants des provinces moins peuplées et des territoires, afin d'être le reflet de la dualité canadienne et afin que le Gouvernement du Canada soit plus en mesure de gouverner au nom de tous les citoyens, tout en préservant le principe de la responsabilité du Gouvernement envers la Chambre des communes.

Après la proclamation de l'Accord du lac Meech, le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres de toutes les provinces conviennent de mettre tout en oeuvre pour faire adopter une modification conforme à ces paramètres en vue d'une réforme générale du Sénat d'ici le 1^{er} juillet 1995.

Le Premier ministre du Canada s'engage à faire rapport deux fois par an à la Chambre des communes des progrès réalisés en vue d'une réforme générale du Sénat.

Le Premier ministre et les premiers ministres de toutes les provinces réaffirment l'engagement pris dans la Déclaration d'Edmonton et dans les dispositions qui seront consacrées en vertu de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 et s'engagent à ce que la réforme du Sénat soit la grande priorité constitutionnelle jusqu'à ce qu'une réforme générale ait pu être réalisée.

Si, d'ici le 1^{er} juillet 1995, une réforme générale du Sénat n'a pu être réalisée conformément aux paramètres énoncés ci-dessus en vertu de l'article 41 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1982, dans sa forme modifiée par la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, le nombre de sénateurs par lesquels une province est en droit d'être représentée au Sénat sera modifié de façon que, pour un total de cent quatre sénateurs, la représentation de l'Ontario passe à dix-huit sénateurs, que celle de la Nouvelle-Écosse, du Nouveau-Brunswick, de la Colombie-Britannique, de l'Alberta, de la Saskatchewan, du Manitoba et de Terre-Neuve passe à huit sénateurs chacun, et que la représentation des autres provinces et des territoires demeure inchangée. Dans le cas d'une province dont la représentation diminuerait, aucune autre nomination ne pourra être faite tant que sa représentation ne sera pas descendue, par attrition, sous son nouveau maximum. Si une telle nouvelle répartition des sièges survenait au Sénat, la province de Terre-Neuve serait représentée par un député supplémentaire à la Chambre des communes en vertu de l'article 51A de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867.

3. FUTURES MODIFICATIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES

(1) Charte - Droit à l'égalité des sexes

- Adjonction de l'article 28 de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés à l'article 16 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987.

(2) Rôle des territoires

- Dans les nominations au Sénat et à la Cour suprême du Canada.
- Dans les discussions portant sur des questions à l'ordre du jour d'une conférence annuelle des premiers ministres sur la Constitution et l'économie qui, de l'avis du Premier ministre, les touchent directement.

(3) Questions linguistiques

- Inscription à l'ordre du jour des conférences sur la Constitution des questions intéressant les minorités linguistiques d'expression française et d'expression anglaise.
- Obligation d'obtenir le consentement du Sénat, de la Chambre des communes et de l'assemblée législative du Nouveau-Brunswick pour modifier la Loi reconnaissant l'égalité des deux communautés linguistiques officielles au Nouveau-Brunswick (Loi 88).

(4) Questions constitutionnelles intéressant les autochtones

- Tenue tous les trois ans d'une conférence constitutionnelle des premiers ministres, la première devant avoir lieu au plus tard un an après la proclamation. Le Premier ministre inviterait des représentants des peuples autochtones et des gouvernements des territoires à participer aux discussions portant sur les questions intéressant les peuples autochtones du Canada.

Les premiers ministres du Canada et des provinces déposeront ou feront déposer respectivement devant le Sénat et la Chambre des communes et devant les assemblées législatives la résolution dont le texte figure en annexe et chercheront à autoriser la modification de la Constitution du Canada par proclamation du gouverneur général sous le grand sceau du Canada le plus tôt possible après la proclamation de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987.

4. ORDRE DU JOUR DE FUTURES DISCUSSIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES

(1) Création de nouvelles provinces dans les territoires

- Le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres de toutes les provinces ont convenu d'examiner, lors de futures conférences constitutionnelles, différentes approches pour l'accession du Yukon et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest au statut de provinces, y compris la possibilité que seules des résolutions de la Chambre des communes et du Sénat soient nécessaires pour leur reconnaître ce statut, advenant une demande en ce sens de ces territoires.

(2) Reconnaissances constitutionnelles

- Le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres des provinces ont pris note des efforts déployés à de nombreuses reprises par les premiers ministres au cours des vingt dernières années en vue de rédiger un énoncé de reconnaissances constitutionnelles, efforts qui se sont toujours avérés infructueux.

Le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres des provinces ont examiné des projets présentés par le gouvernement fédéral et par le Manitoba, la Saskatchewan, l'Ontario et la Colombie-Britannique et ils ont convenu de saisir immédiatement de tous ces projets un comité spécial multipartite de la Chambre des communes. Des audiences publiques à la grandeur du pays débuteraient le 16 juillet 1990 et un rapport concernant le fond et l'emplacement d'une clause compatible avec la Constitution du Canada serait rédigé et présenté aux premiers ministres à leur conférence de 1990.

(3) Examens constitutionnels

- Le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres de toutes les provinces ont convenu d'examiner conjointement, à la conférence constitutionnelle exigée par l'article 49 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1982, la totalité du processus permettant de modifier la Constitution, y compris le délai maximal de trois ans prévu à l'article 39(2) de ladite loi, et la question de la tenue obligatoire d'audiences publiques avant l'adoption de toute mesure liée à une modification de la Constitution, dont la révocation d'une résolution constitutionnelle.
- Conformément à l'article 50 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1982 proposé dans la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres des provinces ont également convenu d'examiner en permanence le fonctionnement de la Constitution du Canada, y compris la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés, en vue d'apporter toute modification constitutionnelle qui pourrait s'avérer utile.

5. ARTICLE 2 : MODIFICATION CONSTITUTIONNELLE DE 1987

Compte tenu des discussions publiques qui ont entouré la clause de la société distincte depuis son inclusion dans l'Accord du lac Meech, un certain nombre des constitutionnalistes les plus éminents au Canada se sont rencontrés pour échanger leurs vues sur les répercussions juridiques de la clause. Le Premier ministre du Canada et les premiers ministres des provinces ont examiné leurs recommandations ainsi que d'autres documents.


Le Premier ministre du Canada, en sa qualité de président de la Conférence, a reçu desdits constitutionnalistes une opinion juridique qui est annexée au communiqué final de la conférence.

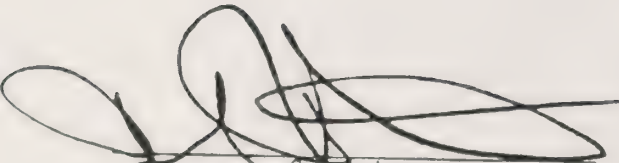
6. MODIFICATION RELATIVE AU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

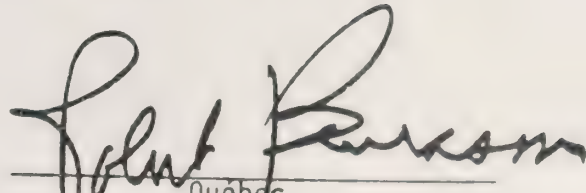
- Adjonction d'une disposition selon laquelle, au Nouveau-Brunswick, les communautés francophone et anglophone ont un statut et des droits et privilèges égaux.
- Affirmation du rôle de la législature et du gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick de protéger et de promouvoir l'égalité des deux communautés linguistiques de la province en ce qui touche à leur statut et à leurs droits et privilèges.
- Le Premier ministre du Canada et le premier ministre du Nouveau-Brunswick déposeront ou feront déposer respectivement devant le Sénat et la Chambre des communes et devant l'assemblée législative du Nouveau-Brunswick la résolution dont le texte figure en annexe et chercheront à autoriser la modification de la Constitution du Canada par proclamation du gouverneur général sous le grand sceau du Canada le plus tôt possible après la proclamation de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987.

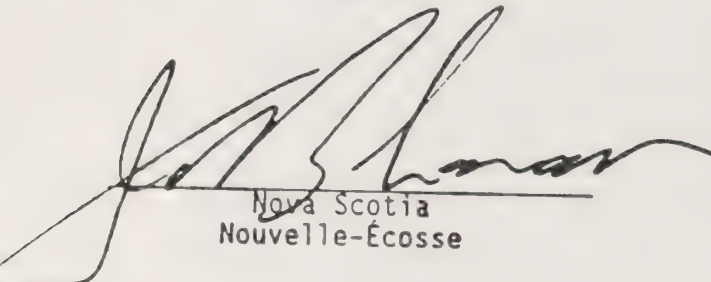
Signed at Ottawa,
June 9, 1990

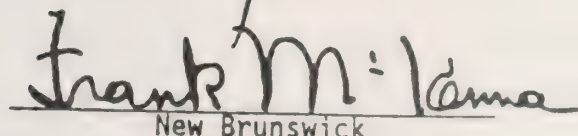
Fait à Ottawa
le 9 juin 1990


Canada

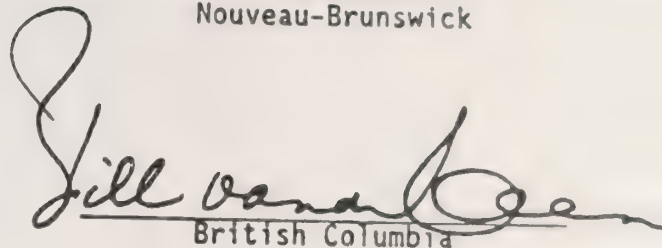

Ontario


Québec


Nova Scotia
Nouvelle-Écosse

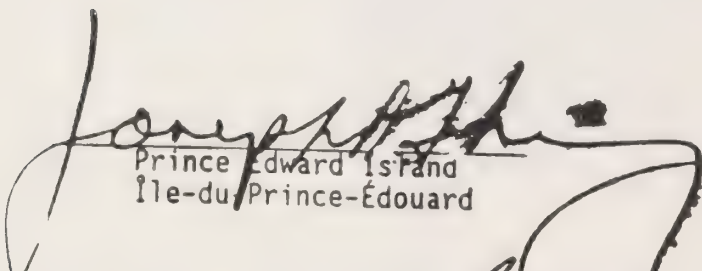

New Brunswick
Nouveau-Brunswick

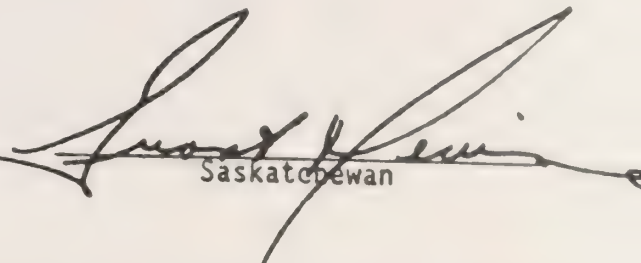

Manitoba*

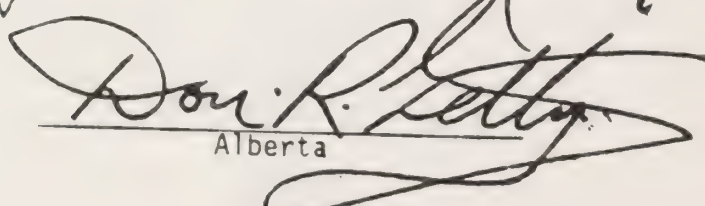

British Columbia
Colombie-Britannique


* Subject to the public
hearing process

* Sous réserve du processus
d'audiences publiques


Prince Edward Island
Île-du-Prince-Édouard


Saskatchewan


Alberta


Newfoundland *
Terre-Neuve

* The Premier of Newfoundland endorses now the undertaking in Part I of this document and further undertakes to endorse fully this agreement if the Constitution Amendment, 1987 is given legislative or public approval following the consultation provided for in Part I.

* Le premier ministre de Terre-Neuve endosse maintenant l'engagement figurant dans la Partie I du présent document et s'engage en outre à endosser la totalité de la présente entente si la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 reçoit une approbation législative ou publique à Terre-Neuve suite aux consultations prévues à la Partie I.

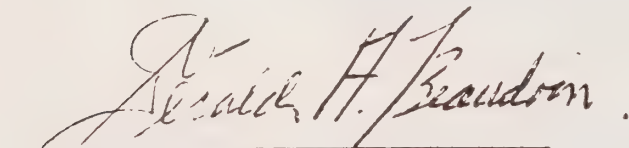
OTTAWA
le 9 juin 1990

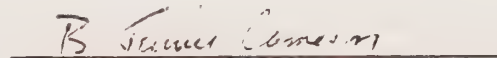
Monsieur le Premier ministre,


En réponse à certaines des préoccupations exprimées à l'égard de l'article premier de l'Accord du lac Meech, nous sommes heureux de confirmer notre opinion sur ce qui suit.


À notre avis, toute interprétation de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés doit concorder avec la disposition relative à la dualité et à la société distincte de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 proposée (l'Accord du lac Meech), mais l'application de la clause ne constitue pas une négation ou une violation des droits et libertés garantis par la Charte des droits, lesquels ne peuvent être restreints que par une règle de droit dans des limites qui sont raisonnables et dont la justification peut se démontrer dans le cadre d'une société libre et démocratique, et il peut être tenu compte de la disposition relative à la dualité et à la société distincte, en particulier aux fins de l'application de l'article premier de la Charte.


La Constitution du Canada, y compris les articles 91 et 92 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867, sera interprétée d'une manière compatible avec la clause relative à la dualité et à la société distincte. La clause ne crée aucune nouvelle compétence législative au profit du Parlement ou de l'une quelconque des législatures provinciales et ne déroge à aucune de leurs compétences législatives, mais il pourra en être tenu compte pour déterminer si une loi particulière s'inscrit dans les compétences législatives du Parlement ou de l'une des législatures provinciales.



Gérald-A. Beaudoin, O.C., c.r.
Professeur de droit
Université d'Ottawa


B. Jamie Cameron
Professeur associé
École de droit Osgoode Hall
Université York


E. Robert A. Edwards, c.r.
Sous-procureur général adjoint
Gouvernement de la
Colombie-Britannique


Peter W. Hogg, c.r.
Professeur de droit
École de droit Osgoode Hall
Université York


Katherine Swinton
Professeur, Faculté de droit
Université de Toronto


Roger Tassé, O.C., c.r.
Avocat

Motion de résolution autorisant la modification
de la Constitution du Canada

(le Sénat) (la Chambre des communes) (l'assemblée législative) a résolu d'autoriser la modification de la Constitution du Canada par proclamation de Son Excellence le gouverneur général sous le grand sceau du Canada, en conformité avec l'annexe ci-jointe, son entrée en vigueur ne pouvant toutefois précéder celle de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987.

ANNEXE

MODIFICATION CONSTITUTIONNELLE

PARTIE I

Loi constitutionnelle de 1867

1. L'article 25 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867, édicté par l'article 2 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, est modifié par insertion, après «province», de «ou du territoire».

2. (1) Le paragraphe 101C(1) de la même loi, édicté par l'article 6 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, est modifié par insertion, après la première mention de «province», de «ou territoire», et, après la seconde, de «ou de ce territoire».

(2) Le paragraphe 101C(4) de la même loi, édicté par l'article 6 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, est modifié par insertion, après «Québec», de «ou d'un territoire».

3. L'article 148 de la même loi, édicté par l'article 8 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, devient le paragraphe 148(1) et est modifié par adjonction de ce qui suit :

Participa-
tion des
terri-
toires

«(2) Le premier ministre du Canada invite des représentants élus des gouvernements du territoire du Yukon et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest à participer aux travaux relatifs à toute question placée à l'ordre du jour des conférences visées au paragraphe (1) et qui, selon lui, intéresse directement le territoire du Yukon et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.»

Loi constitutionnelle de 1982

4. L'article 43 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1982 devient le paragraphe 43(1) et est modifié par adjonction de ce qui suit :

Modifica-
tion d'une
loi du
Nouveau-
Brunswick

<<(2) Les dispositions de la loi du Nouveau-Brunswick intitulée Loi reconnaissant l'égalité des deux communautés linguistiques officielles au Nouveau-Brunswick, chapitre 0-1.1 des Lois du Nouveau-Brunswick, 1981, ne peuvent être modifiées que par proclamation du gouverneur général sous le grand sceau du Canada, autorisée par des résolutions du Sénat, de la Chambre des communes et de l'assemblée législative du Nouveau-Brunswick.>>

5. (1) Le paragraphe 50(2) de la même loi, édicté par l'article 13 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, est modifié par insertion, après l'alinéa a), de ce qui suit :

«a.1) les questions intéressant les minorités francophones et anglophones;»

(2) L'article 50 de la même loi, édicté par l'article 13 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, est modifié par adjonction de ce qui suit :

Participa-
tion des
terri-
toires

<<(3) Le premier ministre du Canada invite des représentants élus des gouvernements du territoire du Yukon et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest à participer aux travaux relatifs à toute question placée à l'ordre du jour des conférences visées au paragraphe (1) et qui, selon lui, intéresse directement le territoire du Yukon et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.>>

6. La même loi est modifiée par insertion, après l'article 50, édicté par l'article 13 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987, de ce qui suit :

Conférence
constitu-
tionnelle

«51. (1) Le premier ministre du Canada convoque une conférence constitutionnelle réunissant les premiers ministres provinciaux et lui-même dans l'année qui suit l'entrée en vigueur de la présente partie, et, par la suite, au moins tous les trois ans suivant cette conférence.

Participa-
tion des
peuples
autoch-
tones

(2) Sont placées à l'ordre du jour de la conférence visée au paragraphe (1) les questions intéressant les peuples autochtones du Canada. Le premier ministre du Canada invite leurs représentants à participer aux travaux relatifs à ces questions.

Participa-
tion des
terri-
toires

(3) Le premier ministre du Canada invite des représentants élus des gouvernements du territoire du Yukon et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest à participer aux travaux relatifs à toute question placée à l'ordre du jour des conférences visées au paragraphe (1) et qui, selon lui, intéresse directement le territoire du Yukon et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Non-
dérogation

(4) Le présent article n'a pas pour effet de déroger à l'article 35.»

Modification constitutionnelle de 1987

7. L'article 16 de la Modification constitutionnelle de 1987 est modifié par insertion, après «27», de «ou 28».

PARTIE II

Loi constitutionnelle de 1867

8. Le passage de l'article 22 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 qui suit le point 4 et précède le dernier paragraphe est abrogé et remplacé par ce qui suit :

<<les quatre divisions doivent (subordonnement aux révisions de la présente loi) être représentées dans le Sénat, ainsi qu'il suit : -- Ontario par dix-huit sénateurs; Québec par vingt-quatre sénateurs; les Provinces maritimes et l'île-du-Prince-Édouard par vingt sénateurs, dont huit représentent la Nouvelle-Écosse, huit le Nouveau-Brunswick et quatre l'île-du-Prince-Édouard; les provinces de l'Ouest par trente-deux sénateurs, dont huit représentent le Manitoba, huit la Colombie-Britannique, huit la Saskatchewan et huit l'Alberta; la province de Terre-Neuve aura droit d'être représentée au Sénat par huit sénateurs; le territoire du Yukon et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont le droit d'être représentés au Sénat par un sénateur chacun.>>

9. L'article 27 de la même loi est abrogé et remplacé par ce qui suit :

Réduction
du Sénat
au nombre
régulier

<<27. Dans le cas où le nombre des sénateurs serait ainsi en aucun temps augmenté, le gouverneur général ne mandera aucune personne au Sénat, sauf sur pareil ordre de la Reine donné à la suite de la même recommandation, tant que la représentation de chacune des quatre divisions du Canada ne sera pas revenue au nombre fixe visé à l'article 22.>>

Disposi-
tion
transi-
toire

10. Par dérogation à l'article 22 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867, peut être maintenue la représentation au Sénat de toute province dont le nombre de sénateurs excède, à l'entrée en vigueur de la présente partie, celui prévu à cet article; toutefois, il ne peut être nommé de sénateurs pour représenter cette province tant que le nombre de ceux-ci n'est pas inférieur à celui prévu à l'article 22 de cette loi et, par la suite, sous réserve de l'article 26 de cette loi, le nombre de

sénateurs pour cette province ne peut excéder cette limite.

11. (1) La présente partie n'entre pas en vigueur si une modification portant sur le Sénat, conforme aux paramètres énoncés dans l'Entente constitutionnelle de 1990 signée à Ottawa le 9 juin 1990, est faite avant le 1^{er} juillet 1995.

(2) À défaut d'une modification visée au paragraphe (1), la présente partie entre en vigueur le 1^{er} juillet 1995.

Titre

Titre

12. Titre de la présente modification :
Modification constitutionnelle de (année de la proclamation).

Motion de résolution autorisant la modification
de la Constitution du Canada

(le Sénat) (la Chambre des communes) (l'assemblée législative) a
résolu d'autoriser la modification de la Constitution du Canada par
proclamation de Son Excellence le gouverneur général sous le grand
sceau du Canada, en conformité avec l'annexe ci-jointe.

ANNEXE

MODIFICATION CONSTITUTIONNELLE

Loi constitutionnelle de 1867

1. La Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 est modifiée par insertion, après l'article 133, de ce qui suit :

Interpré-
tation

«133.1 (1) Toute interprétation de la Constitution du Canada à l'égard du Nouveau-Brunswick doit concorder avec la reconnaissance de ce que, au Nouveau-Brunswick, les communautés francophone et anglophone ont un statut et des droits et privilèges égaux.

Rôle de la
Législa-
ture et du
gouverne-
ment du
Nouveau-
Brunswick

(2) La Législature et le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick ont le rôle de protéger et de promouvoir l'égalité des deux communautés linguistiques visées au paragraphe (1) en ce qui touche à leur statut et à leurs droits et privilèges.

Maintien
des droits
des légis-
latures et
gouver-
nements

(3) Le présent article n'a pas pour effet de déroger aux pouvoirs, droits ou privilèges du Parlement ou du gouvernement du Canada, ou de la Législature ou du gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick, y compris à leurs pouvoirs, droits ou privilèges en matière de langue.»

Titre

Titre

2. Titre de la présente modification :
Modification constitutionnelle de (année de la proclamation) (Nouveau-Brunswick).

